CDXC CHILTERN DX CLUB The UK DX Foundation

Newsletter

September 1996 CDXC - The UK DX Foundation Issue 103

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CDXC OFFICERS 1996/1997

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20 OCTOBER

CHILTERN DX CLUB - *The UK DX Foundation* - Aims and Objectives

"The aims of the Club are to promote HF operating, to encourage excellence, particularly in DXing and contest operating, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or by whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate".

Membership: Full details of membership are available from the Club Secretary (address above).

Subscriptions: The annual subscription is currently set at £12.00 for UK members, and £17.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above).

Newsletter: This Newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. *Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee.*

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NEWS and DEVELOPMENTS

Over the last 15 years, formerly as Heatherlite, we have been producing Linear Amplifiers that are made to last!!

I hope that, as every year goes by, we produce new models (without cutting corners) to give you the best quality available. Like all electronic items, occasionally a fault may occur and I hope that whoever you speak to we have given excellent after-sales service, without question.

Importers of foreign amplifiers soon try to find fault with UK produced products but ask any of the 500 owners of our amplifiers what they think!! Hopefully they will say "friendly and excellent service".

If you are thinking of buying an amplifier, ask yourself...

- Will the company or importer still be around next year?
- Are the amplifiers fully double-screened and filtered to meet EU requirements?
- Does the amplifier have a proper 230V, 50Hz transformer?
- Does the amplifier have sufficient cooling at full power?
- Do you need special lifting instructions due to a flimsy cabinet?
- Watts? Is it RMS Watts O/P (like ours) or DC input or DC Watts!!?

We produce three HF Models 10 - 160m (including WARC bands)
and two VHF Models 2m & 6m
Each amplifier is individually hand-built, and each HF amplifier has its own individual calibration chart. Five day, fulltime help and service line.

Please send for a colour leaflet and prices NOW (Price increase 1/11/96)

Challenger	2 x 3CX800A7	(1500W+ O/P)
Explorer 1200	2 x 3-500ZG	(1000W+ O/P)
Hunter 750	1 x 3-500ZG	(700W O/P)
Discovery (2 or 6m)	1 x 3CX800A7	(800W+ O/P)

Amplifiers are our business!!

We manufacture for Amateur Radio, University research depts., MOD, Scottish Office and many others who need High Power RF from 450kHz to 250MHz. We also offer assistance to Home-brew enthusiasts.

Export... Now 50% of our production goes for export worldwide.

Peter Rodmell G3ZRS

CONTENTS

Editorial	3
Club News And Views	**5**
Chairman's Chat	5
Minutes of the AGM & EGM	7
Jottings of the Secretary	9
Thank you!	9
CDXC Constitution	10
VS6CT Lunch Club!	12
Welcome!	12
Postbag	12
The move to Bangkok	13
BERU	15
DXCC Report	**16**
DXCC Awards	16
DXCC 2000?	16
P5 - North Korea	18
KH Revamp on the cards?	19
UK DXCC participants	20
DXCC Countries List changes	22
General Topics	**23**
Ham Radio - the future?	23
RSGB HF Convention	24
Propagation	**25**
Sunrise & sunset times	25
Parchment Page	**26**
The Islands Of Scotland Award	26
BAFARA Award	26
Tabarca Award	27
Wild Rose Country Award	27
Schwerter Diploma - Germany	28
JARL 70th Anniversary Award	28
Portuguese Islands Plaque	28
Rules for CDXC Honor Roll Chaser Table	29
US DX Convention	29
Pse QSL Tnx	**30**
Keyboard Corner	**31**
Cluster access	31
Email addresses	32
New Millenium problems	32
DX Operations	**33**
LF and RTTY from Burundi	33
Kermadec Islands - ZL8RI	37
Nepal - 9N1ARB	38
ZK1AAU on Top Band	40
Les Minquiers EU-099	43
Press release - Bouvet Island	46
QRZ Contest	**47**
Contest rules	48
5V5A in November	53
WRTC 1996	54
IOTA Contest 1996	57
Insula Magna EUCXXI	57
IOTA96 from EU-010	59
The Best Laid Plans...	62
IOTA96 - Malta - 9H0A	64
UFO's and IOTA Contest	67
9H contest station	69

SUPPORT CDXC
THE
UK DX FOUNDATION

EDITORIAL

Brendan McCartney, G4DYO

I started the CDXC Newsletter nearly thirteen years ago as a freebie publication for members - a stock of SASE's lodged with the editor guaranteed receipt of the 2-3 page computer print-off every couple of weeks. Since those early days, and through the good offices of several most professional editors, the CDXC Newsletter has developed into the superb magazine which we have today. Outgoing editor Alan Jubb, G3PMR, was in the chair for a significant part of that expansion and to him go our grateful thanks. Alan set a very high standard and I hope that I am able to continue the trend set by him.

Writing 500 issues of DXNS and reaching #1 Slot on DXCC Honor Roll, both of which I enjoyed immensely, ensured that I have not been slacking since I last occupied this seat. Although I am most honoured to have been elected to this position, I am sorry that the younger members of the Club were reluctant to "take office" and you are lumbered with an OT for a scribe. Organisations such as CDXC are frequently reminded of their responsibility to encourage new amateurs to participate in their activities yet, when the opportunities are placed before them on a plate, those people are reluctant to volunteer. Delighted as I am to once again occupy the editorial seat, I would prefer to see a younger editor when this position next becomes vacant. You don't have to be on the Honor Roll to fire up a word processor!

I propose to increase the graphic content of the Newsletter (if only to save my typing fingers!) so please send along pictures of DX gatherings, of you, your station and/or antenna farm plus interesting QSLs received, etc. These will be treated with the utmost care and returned as quickly as possible. I also intend to "co-opt" members into helping and I am pleased to report that Jim Smith, G0OFE has agreed to enlarge his regular propagation feature, hopefully with

some graphics, starting with the November issue. I propose to expand Ken Chandler's excellent contest column to provide more articles covering contest operating. **Question:** Do readers want detailed rules of contests, or would operating type articles be preferred? If you are an active contester it's time to start writing!

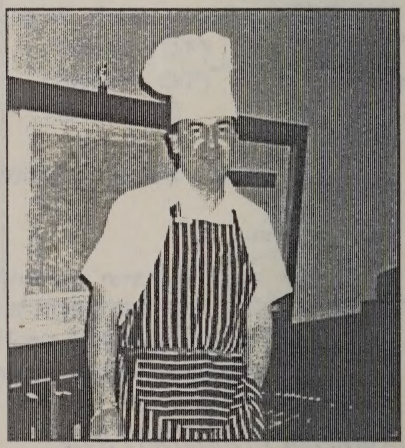
I would greatly appreciate constructive suggestions from members, from whom I would like to see MORE input generally. Take encouragement from our new President, Don Beattie, G3OZF, who submitted several items for this issue. Also, how about employing this medium for discussions on DX matters, rather than clogging up the Cluster network?

Members with questions about the Newsletter are welcome to contact me. In my rare absence my XYL Ruth, whom many of you know as a great supporter of our hobby, understands "hamspeak" so do not hesitate to leave messages in her most capable hands. Our telephone is equipped with FAX on request or you may contact me via Email (g4dyo@aol.com) or via the BBS network (G4DYO @ GB7DID). Input for CDXC Newsletter may be sent to me by those means or, preferably, on disk (Word for Windows or ASCII format), or simply typewritten. If you choose the last method please use double spacing and a reasonable size of typeface so that the document may be scanned directly in to the WP.

There have been many changes and controversies in amateur radio DXing since I last occupied this seat. After years of patience many DXers reached the #1 Slot on DXCC Honor Roll by working XY0RR. However, despite the ARRL accreditation procedures, a significant percentage of those DXers have misgivings about the way they attained this pinnacle in DXing. The arguments about legitimate activity from "Burma" will rage for many years and will probably never be resolved to the satisfaction of everyone. All I will say is that I am glad I worked XZ1A! Now the vast majority of DXers who achieved the prestigious #1 Slot have endure to the same frustration until P5 is once again activated.

CDXC has recently become the UK DX FOUNDATION, a move which I strongly support. After years of virtual anonymity in the field of HF DXing "G" (and I include all UK and CI call areas under that banner) is now achieving recognition, with the CDXC logo regularly appearing on the QSL cards of major DXpeditions. The days of leading DXpeditioners asking "G? What's G?" are past as those same DXpeditioners now approach CDXC with their plans and requests for assistance. I like to think that this trend started with the support given to the historic VP8SSI and 3Y0PI DXpeditions. What we have here in CDXC is a truly independent organisation representing UK amateurs whose primary interest is HF DXing. The UK DX Foundation deserves the support of all UK HF DXers.

Lastly, for those who wish to know a) what I look like, and b) what I do professionally, the picture below, taken in the Approach Control Room at London (Heathrow) Airport, *may* provide the answers.



CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

The main event of the past few weeks was the Annual Review Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting on 6 July here at Further Felden. These meetings were followed by our Annual Summer Social. I am pleased to report that both meetings went smoothly and that the new Constitution was approved subject to some tidying up of the wording. The new Constitution is printed elsewhere in this Newsletter and a copy will be sent to all new joiners as part of their joiner's pack.

The new Committee was elected. At this point I would like to thank Roger G3KMA for his invaluable work as President for the past two years. Roger has made a major contribution to the affairs of the Club and we are very grateful to him.

Don G3OZF becomes President and Steve G4JVG becomes a Vice-Chairman. It's great to have two keen and active HF enthusiasts, DXpeditioners and contesters on the Committee. I think we have achieved a good balance with some new blood being brought onto the Committee. At the same time we have maintained continuity as four of the old committee members continue -- Alan G3PMR, Mike G4PFF, Dave G0HXN and myself

Alan G3PMR has completed three years as Newsletter Editor and did a marvellous job. Alan becomes a Vice-Chairman and we are delighted that he has agreed to stay on the Committee. I was very pleased to able to present Alan with a special plaque for his work as Newsletter Editor. Bren, G4DYO in turn becomes Newsletter Editor and I know he will welcome your views on the make up and balance of the Newsletter. Please do write to him.

My thanks also to the other Committee members and also to all the members of the Club for their support during the past year.

The Annual Social seems to have been enjoyed by everyone. The weather could have been better but the few showers did not spoil the fun. Our thanks to Mark Mann, Dave's son, for his help with the catering arrangements. Without this Trish and I could not have coped. Many thanks too to all those members who wrote or sent Email or cluster messages. They were much appreciated.

We held a Committee meeting on Saturday 17 August. I can report that the Club is in a very healthy state. This Newsletter contains a reminder for those who have not renewed their subs. Please do so quickly or this will be your last Newsletter! Could I also encourage members to switch to standing order. This makes Mike's life so much easier.

We agreed to pursue a number of marketing initiatives and we will be writing to all UK DXCC members who are not in the Club to see if they are interested in joining. We believe there may be around 200 potential members. We are also considering some broader initiatives -- more about these next time.

We have advertised in Bob's G3PJT book on BERU that is to be launched at the Convention and should be a sell-out. We wish Bob every success with this venture.

We agreed to make a contribution of £200 to the Midway DXpedition that will have just taken place by the time you receive this Newsletter. This figure was again matched by the RSGB DXpedition Fund. The forthcoming Heard Island DXpedition is phenomenally expensive and will cost around $320,000. At the moment the HI team is seeking a further $60,000. We agreed therefore to contribute a further £200 to this DXpedition making a total of £400 from the

Club. The RSGB HF Committee meets in late August and I anticipate that they will agree to match this contribution from the RSGB DXpedition Fund.

The HF and IOTA Convention 4/6 October again at the Beaumont will soon be upon us. I know that some of our "regulars" have still not booked. Please do so soon -- you will not be disappointed. The Club needs volunteers to man the CDXC room during the Convention weekend. This year we will again have the special event station in the CDXC room so there should be plenty of visitors and activity. Please let Dave G0HXN know if you can help for an hour or so. I have received a guarantee from the Beaumont caterers that they will give us some excellent food this year and I have no doubt that this will be the case. The menus look very good indeed.

RSGB Council elections are on the horizon and I know that Don, G3OZF, our new President is seeking election. Can I encourage the RSGB members amongst us to support Don. He will bring considerable business experience and vigour to Council. I am not sure whether any other CDXC members are standing but let's see what we can do to get more HF enthusiasts on to Council. For my part, I have recently joined the Society's Executive Committee and my focus will be on developing strategies to ensure the future prosperity of the Society.

On the IOTA front Roger G3KMA, Martin G3ZAY and I have been very busy with the new IOTA Directory and Yearbook. We are very pleased with the way that this is progressing. This will be the first of a series of annual publications. We believe that it will be of interest not only to the many island hunters and activators but also to many HF and DX enthusiasts. Apart from updated material in the Directory section there are many statistics. For example, there's a table of the New Ones and Rare Ones activated since January 1995. How many of these did you work? If you want to activate an island have a look at the Most Wanted Islands List - it makes fascinating reading. There are many very interesting articles too. Publication day is 4 October, the first day of the Convention.

Many of you will have read about the DXCC 2000 project initiated by the ARRL. A recent article in CQ set out some ideas for consideration. These include:

* Electronic QSLs - this idea seems to be gaining a real head of steam.
* Tightening of the definition of a Point 1 (government) country.
* A new requirement that every active DXCC participant should work a certain number of the most wanted DXCC countries each year.
* The prohibition of assisted (net) contacts.

As the leading DX Club in the UK perhaps we should put in a submission to the ARRL. I know Bren will be happy to publish a selection of ideas from members. Please write to him. We will try and arrive at a consensus view that we can submit to the ARRL.

Finally, I know that some members have tried to contact me by Cluster. My apologies for not replying but following the move of 'DXH from Hemel to Harrow I have been having a great deal of trouble maintaining a reliable link. I know that several stations in the North London and South Herts areas are having similar problems. We seem to be in a "black spot". Maury, G0UHK, the new Sysop and I have worked out a solution to this problem. We believe that by some antenna changes and equipment upgrades (all these are underway) we will be able to have a reliable link between Harrow and Felden. I will then become a local sub-node on 70 Cms and the stations in the North London area will be able to link through me to 'DXH. We should get this working in October but, meanwhile, apologies to those to whom I have been unable to reply. There's always e-mail, snail mail or even the telephone of course!

MINUTES OF THE AGM & EGM
OF THE CHILTERN DX CLUB

Held on 6 July 1996 at the QTH of Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

The following were present: G0HXN, G0KRL, G0LUQ, G0OPB, G0WAZ, G3GHS, G3KDB, G3LNS, G3NKC, G3NUG, G3OZF, G3PFS/CT3EU, G3PJT, G3PMR, G3RTE, G3SED, G3WGV, G3XTT, G4DQW, G4IDL, G4JVG, G4PFF, G4VXT, G6QQ, GW0RTA

1. Apologies for absence.
Apologies were received from: G0ORH, G3CAQ, G3COJ, G3KMA, G3MCX, G3ZAY, G4DYO, G4LJF.

2. Minutes of the A.R.M. 1995
The minutes of the 1995 ARM were published in the September '95 Newsletter, and were also distributed at the meeting. They were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by G3OZF and seconded by G0KRL.

3. Chairman's Report by G3NUG
The Honor Roll Chaser Awards have proved to be popular, and many thanks to Bren for design and sponsorship. There had been quite a debate in the Newsletter regarding the objectives of the Club and these objectives have now been incorporated in the new prospectus, for which once again our thanks must go the Bren for all the hard work which has gone into producing a very professional publication.

The Annual Dinner was well attended; our thanks to Dave for organising this and our thanks to Vincent for his very interesting after dinner presentation. We will be using the same venue next year. There has been a lot of work done on the new constitution as the old one was somewhat dated. The new one follows the Standard RSGB Constitution, but more about this later.

On the marketing front my 9M2 initiative brought in around 10 new members. Picketts Lock, and thanks to Barry from Yaesu for the space on his stand, produced another 10. We have had mentions in several radio related journals, and the next aim is to target all UK DXCC members.

As far as membership is concerned last year we had 220 members; we now have over 260 - a net gain of 40 but with 15 losses - so 55 new members during the year, which is very encouraging.

We donated to the following DXpeditions: Heard Island, Kermadec, Wake Island and Sable Island. £200 was donated to each with a matching amount from the RSGB a total from the UK of £1600.

The HF Convention is on the 4/6 October, get your bookings in early. We as a Club need help generally over the weekend especially in the CDXC Room.

As some of you may know Roger G3KMA is standing down as President and I would like to propose our thanks to him.

4.Secretary's Report by G0HXN

I shall keep this fairly brief as we have a fair amount of work to get through before we can enjoy the wonderful hospitality of Trish and Neville, and not too much drooling over the 40 meter beam. As Neville has said, our membership is now about 260 with a DXCC count of 20 countries in which we now have a presence. The emergence and use of Email has speeded up my contact with some of our far flung members, and allowed us to quickly gather in information for inclusion in the Newsletter. One of my aims is to try and start a Club Net on one of the bands, purely to get more social contact than possibly once or twice a year - either here or at the Convention.

My mailbag is still fairly full, most of which is renewal of membership but occasionally a real gem such as the one from Denise M0ADG, and congratulations to her for passing the Morse, now to work again for her DXCC. On my travels I managed throughout the year to meet several members, and look forward to meeting several more over the next few weeks. As you can see from the Agenda we shall be pausing during the ARM at a logical point and going into an EGM. We as a committee felt that the old constitution was dated and we felt that it needed to be bought up to date with current thinking. With the increase in membership this also increased our finances, and under the old constitution there was little protection for members or the committee in dealing with assets of the Club.

For those of you with Internet access I will hopefully be setting up a CDXC Home Page within a short time. The prospectus will be included and hopefully the pages will be updated weekly and will have access to a variety of radio related pages, as well as a printable application form. Thanks for attending and look forward to meeting you all socially in a few minutes.

5. Treasurer's Report from G4PFF

The accounts were published in the July Newsletter, and a copy was available at the meeting. It was agreed that the subscription level would remain as at present.

6. Motion to suspend ARM by G0HXN. Carried.

At this point the ARM was suspended and an EGM was convened to consider the proposed new Constitution. This had previously been published in the Newsletter, and very little correspondence had been received on the proposed changes.

Item 1. It was felt by the meeting that the wording "UK DX Foundation" should be increased in font size to lay emphasis on the UK element of the Club. (Agreed)
Item 2. In the Constitution , "Dxpedition" should read DXpedition with DX in capitals.
Items 3, 4, 5. No comments.
Item 6. A change in vii. This should now read "Up to two Vice Chairman may be appointed."
Item 7. No comment
Item 8. a) Should read in second sentence "Members must be given notice in writing."
Items 9, 10, 11. No comments
The date of the New Constitution will now be 6th July 1996.

Proposition to accept the constitution by G0HXN, seconded by G3OZF and carried unanimously.

7. AGM to be reconvened.

8. Acting Chairman G3WGV appointed to take over election of Committee.

9. Election of Committee 1996/97

President: Only one nomination G3OZF
Proposed G4JVG
Seconded G4DQW
Carried

Secretary: Only one nomination G0HXN
Proposed GW0RTA
Seconded G4DQW
Carried

Chairman: Only one nomination G3NUG
Proposed G4PFF
Seconded G3LNS
Carried

Treasurer: Only one nomination G4PFF
Proposed G3OZF
Seconded G3LNS
Carried

Vice Chairmen: Two nominations G3PMR & G4JVG
G3PMR: Proposed G0HXN
Seconded G3PJT
G4JVG: Proposed G0WAZ
Seconded G3OZF
Carried

NewLetter Editor: Only one nomination G4DYO
Proposed G3PMR
Seconded G3PFS/CT3EU
Carried
(Under the new Constitution the Newsletter Editor will be a full member of the Committee as of right.)

G3NUG resumed as Chairman of the meeting. Neville explained that Bren G4DYO, as NewsLetter Editor, wished to waive his right to be a Committee member because of his shift working arrangements made attending Committee meetings difficult. He would therefore be shown in literature as an Officer

10. Election of Auditor: G3ZAY was proposed by G4PFF and seconded by G0HXN. Carried.

11. Any other business.

1. Proposed by G4PFF that subscriptions for 1996/97 be set at £12 for UK members and £17 equivalent for overseas members. Seconded by G0HXN carried unanimously.

2. At this point Neville G3NUG made a special presentation of a CDXC plaque to G3PMR in recognition of an outstanding contribution as Clubs Newsletter Editor.

3. A presentation was made on behalf of the Club to Trish XYL of G3NUG for all her work in support of the Club and distribution of the Newsletter.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1300hrs.

Dave Mann G0HXN, Secretary CDXC

JOTTINGS of the SECRETARY

Dave Mann G0HXN

Well what can I say? The Gods were with us yet again - fine weather for the AGM: It didn't rain till late, although it tried, and I am sure that it's something to do with the electromagnetic field over Neville's QTH. The minutes of the meeting are elsewhere in the Newsletter. A fine turnout of members and families - well over 60 - enjoyed the hospitality at Further Felden. And what about the food? A really great day. It's a shame that we cannot get more to attend, but still there is always the Convention. The usual cry from me this time of year, please come and spend an hour on a stint in the CDXC room, it would allow some of the committee members to attend the odd lecture. I am writing this the weekend after the IOTA contest and, my goodness, that contest has really taken off world-wide and must now qualify as one of the best throughout the year. Once again I was working so only managed a small foray into the huge numbers of islands on the air. I at least managed two new ones, including my last European country - GU on 80 - so that pleased me no end seeing as I have waited over three years for it. I would like to see the analysis of the Cluster spots to see how many islands were spotted; I am sure that the basic 100 could have been well completed during the weekend, although I am not sure if any Antarctic Islands were on the air.

I am looking forward to reading Bob Whelan's (G3PJT) book on the History of BERU and the Commonwealth Contest which is hopefully going to be ready for publication at the this year's Convention (CDXC are advertising in the book) I'm not sure of the price, but what's cheap these days?

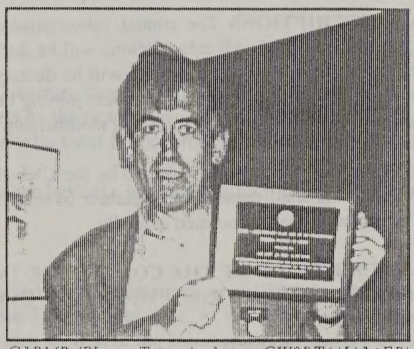
I would like to welcome Bren back as Newsletter Editor, I am sure that the Club's Newsletter must be one of the best small club productions in the amateur radio world; all my mail compliments the Club for it's publication and long may it continue. Why not write something yourself?

Hopefully I will meet up with some of you at the Convention although I am expecting some visitors from PA and am not sure when they are arriving. So 73 & See you in the pile ups

THANK YOU!

Following Alan Jubb's three year term as editor of the Newsletter, he was presented with a plaque at the ARM for his services to the club. The plaque was inscribed thus:

CDXC-Chiltern DX Club and UK DX Foundation
Special Plaque of Merit
Awarded to:
Alan Jubb G3PMR
in recognition of his dedication and outstanding contribution to the Club as Newsletter Editor
July 1993 to July 1996.
Deadlines, Deadlines, Deadlines!



G3PMR (Photo: Taizo Arakawa, GW0RTA/JA3AER)

Also at the ARM Neville Cheadle's XYL Trish was presented with a plant to thank her for her work in support of the Club and for distributing the Newsletter. Grateful thanks to Neville and Trish for their usual excellent ARM hospitality.

(*Ed:* It is oft forgotten just much support many XYLs offer their "ham men" and it is most fitting that at last this support is receiving recognition.)

THE CHILTERN DX CLUB
(THE UK DX FOUNDATION)
CONSTITUTION

1. NAME The Club shall be known as The Chiltern DX Club (The UK DX Foundation). This is abbreviated to CDXC. The Club will be affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain.

2. AIMS The aims of the Club are to promote HF operating, to encourage excellence, particularly in DXing and contest operating, through mutual assistance, and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or by whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate.

3. MEMBERSHIP Membership shall be open, subject to the discretion of the Committee, to all persons interested in the aims of the Club, and who have worked or heard a minimum of 100 DXCC countries. New members must normally be proposed by at least two existing members of the Club. Where this is not possible all applications will be considered by the Committee.
Membership categories will be:

a) Full member

b) Honorary Member. This may be granted to any person who, in the opinion of the Committee, has rendered outstanding service to Amateur Radio, either directly or indirectly. Such membership shall not carry any voting rights, and will be free from any subscription.

All members will abide by the constitution of the Club. The Committee shall have the power to expel any member whose conduct in the opinion of the Committee renders that person unfit to be a member of the Club. No member shall be expelled without first having been given the opportunity to present their case to the Committee.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS The annual subscriptions for membership shall be set by the Committee and agreed at the AGM. All subscriptions will be due on the 1st of July, and payable by the 30th October at the latest, after which membership will be deemed to have lapsed. The financial year shall run from 1st April to 31st March. For new members joining between 1st January and 30th June, only half the annual subscriptions will be payable for that membership year.

5. FINANCE All moneys received by the Club shall be properly deposited in the Club's bank account. Withdrawals shall require the signature of the Club treasurer or other nominated officers of the Club. The accounts shall be audited annually.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE The Club's affairs shall be administered by a Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee, in whom the Club's property shall be vested, shall consist of::

i) A President

ii) A Chairman who will preside at all meetings at which he is present. In the absence of the Chairman he shall nominate another member of the committee to act as Chairman.

iii) A Secretary who will be responsible for:

a) Keeping the minutes of the formal meetings.

b) Ensuring that all correspondence is properly handled.

c) Dispatching joining pack to all new members.

d) Any other duties as designated by the Committee.

e) Maintaining a master roll of the Club's equipment.

iv) A Treasurer who will be responsible for:

a) Keeping the Club's accounts.

b) Advising the Committee on financial affairs

c) Preparing the accounts for audit and presentation at the AGM.

v) The Newsletter Editor who will, of right, be a full member of the Committee.

vi) Not more than two co-opted members who will have full voting power. Further co-opted members who will not have voting powers.
vii) Up to two Vice Chairmen may be elected or appointed from time to time, but may hold another position on the Committee.
viii) Every year all committee members shall resign at the Annual General Meeting and, if they so wish, be eligible for re-election.

7. COMMITTEE STANDING ORDERS

a) A quorum for the Committee shall be four. In the absence of a quorum, business shall be dealt with, but any decisions taken only become valid after ratification at the next meeting at which a quorum exists, or by correspondence.
b) Committee meetings may be called by the Chairman, the Secretary, or by any three full members of the Committee.
c) All full members of the Committee may vote. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman has a second casting vote.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held between 1st May and 1st August. Members must be given notice in writing at least 28 days before AGM
b) The quorum for the AGM shall be 10 or 25% of the membership which ever is least.
c) The agenda for the AGM shall include:

i) Apologies for absence
ii) Acceptance of the minutes of the previous AGM
iii) Chairman's Report
iv) Secretary's Report
v) Treasurer's Report
vi) Election of new Committee
vii) Election of Auditor
viii) Any other Business

(Items i) to v) shall be chaired by the outgoing Chairman, item vi) by an acting Chairman, who is not standing for office, and the remaining business by the newly-elected Chairman).
d) Nominations for Committee members will only be valid if confirmed by the nominee at the meeting or previously in writing.
e) Committee nominations and items for any other business must be notified to the Secretary prior to the start of the AGM.

9. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

a) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Committee or not less than 8 members of the Club. The meeting must be held within 3 calendar months. At least 14 days notice in writing must be given to the Secretary, who in turn shall give the membership at least 28 days notice in writing of the agenda. No business other than that on the agenda may be transacted at an EGM.
b) The quorum for an EGM shall be 10, or 25% of the membership, whichever is least.

10. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION The Constitution may be amended only at an EGM called for that purpose.

11. WINDING UP THE CLUB

a) The decision to wind up the Club can only be made at an EGM.
b) The funds of the Club shall, after the sale of all assets and payment of all outstanding debts, be disposed of as directed by members at the final EGM.

6 August 1996

VS6CT LUNCH CLUB!

Many will have read the reminders on the Cluster, but only a few join the group of ultra top-class DXers (plus your editor!) who gather during Phil Weaver's visits to the UK. Don't be scared - most of us are human and frequently the last thing we talk about is amateur radio. It's usually a case of Phil making us envious with stories of his QE2 cruises!

Keep an eye on the Cluster and, if you are in the area, do come along. We meet at The Cricketers, Bagshot, usually around midday and the next meeting is scheduled for 9 September. Either of two secret passwords gain immediate entry: "*I'm top of Honor Roll*", or "*What'll you have?*" Phil usually confirms arrangements when he arrives in the UK so call Bren, G4DYO, for updates nearer the date.

Back (L-R): G4DYO, G4LJF, Gill (xyl G3KMA), G4SVB, Ruth (xyl G4DYO), VK9NS, G0KEY, VS6CT.
Front (L-R): G3OFW, G3LQP, G3KMA

WELCOME!

The following DXers have recently joined CDXC. We hope that they will enjoy being members and that they will participate in CDXC activities:

G0SPK	David Neal	Newmarket
G0UAZ (216)	Terry Squibb	Lancs
G3KNU (260+)	Peter Jackson	Scunthorpe
G3OCA (319)	Ken Frankcom	Derby
G4CRY (107)	Peter Halls	York
GW4BVJ (115)	Richard Mortimore	S Glamorgan

(Countries worked scores in brackets)

Dave Mann, G0HXN, CDXC Secretary

POSTBAG

From CliffUnderhill, G0MMI:

Regarding Neville's article *QSL ETHICS*, in the March issue, I could not agree more. As a manager myself for Marc, LX1DM, who is a CDXC member, I pride myself in knowing that everyone who sends a card, either via the bureau or direct and whether amateur or SWL, receives a reply (as long as they are in the log!). It's not much to do and the manager is not only serving the DX station but also the radio community world-wide. If the manager is not on the ball then it comes back to the DX station that his manager is not doing his job properly. I knew of one G0 who used to put incoming SWL cards in the "round" file and even dropped out of RSGB because he was sending too many via the bureau! How many more are there out in the world like it I do not know but, in my case, there are a few who owe me a QSL.

After reading the July issue of CDXC Newsletter I now know why I have never received a card via the bureau from F6FNU; direct yes, bureau a big NO! This type of manager is, thankfully, in the minority, but the worst for not sending cards are the amateurs one works every day. When I first got my G0 callsign I spent a lot of cash on my first 1,000 cards only to receive 316 replies, mainly through the bureau, and I still await replies to cards sent direct in 1989.

There is also a down side to being the QSL manager for a DX station. At one time I was QSL manager for an operator in the Middle East and his logs were not only a mess but, most of the time, impossible to obtain! I recall sending FAXes, writing to him and even having other amateurs pass my requests to him in person. The only response I received was: "It's in the hands of God!" Needless to say, I am no longer his manager, but I still have some of his old logs.

If you wish to be a QSL manager you must join your national society and use the bu-

reau. Send cards direct even though the sender forgot to enclose an IRC or stamp as it will not bust the bank, etc.

My only wish is that ARRL would invoke DXCC Rule 12 Operating Ethics more often and publish details of those amateurs who violate this rule. Maybe then some would get 5BDXCC a little quicker.

On a lighter note, Marc, LX1DM, is now QRV on 6m using a TS870DSP to a 6-el beam. After a long stay in hospital Marc is enjoying the pile-ups on this band and would like to work some CDXC members. What a way to recuperate!

THE MOVE TO BANGKOK

By Phil Weaver, HS0/G4JMB

Subsequent to my escapades on the QE2 (reviewed in the last edition), as you will have read it was my intention to relocate to Bangkok, where I was to either buy or rent an apartment. I also wanted, of course, to get back on the air again to be able to keep contact with friends made around the world. I had been told that getting a station on the air in Bangkok was very difficult, especially working with the Thai Govern-ment as, not speaking the language, I would always need the help of local people. Will I be lucky enough to find a house/apartment in the area of Bangkok in which I wanted to live with permission to put up a tower and antennas? Will I be lucky enough to get an import license for my FT1000 in the four weeks I could stay in Bangkok with the visa restrictions? Would I eventually be able to obtain a Station License?

With all these thoughts, worries, dreams, I booked a consolidated ticket with Bagshot Travel, and they managed to get me a ticket on BA9 direct to Bangkok, priced at £625 for £283. I thought this was rather good. I could have gone on an even cheaper flight via the middle east but that would have meant arriving at Dubai at 2300 and then taking off again at 0300, so I opted for the flight I wanted, i.e. a direct flight with British Airways. Again I could have flown also for a lot less with Qantas, but who wants to arrive at 0630 in the morning only to be told when you arrive at the hotel, "Sorry Sir, no room until noon"? Like a radio wave my aspirations were up and down as I went on my way to Bangkok, hoping against hope that all would be successful.

The flight to Bangkok was in fact quite pleasant and I arrived at 1605, and in 55 minutes was into the hotel, the secret being to only arrive and leave Bangkok on a Sunday as on any other day of the week the journey to/from the airport can take from 1 to 3 hours depending on how the traffic is. The hotel I stayed in is located in the Silom area at 700 Baht (£19) a night inclusive of government tax. For those who have never been to Bangkok before, the Silom area is where it all happens in the evenings with many restaurants, street markets and bars to cater for every taste!

I had previously written to one of the biggest real estate agents in Bangkok, Collier Jardines, indicating my requirements for a roof top or very high apartment with permission to erect a tower and antennas. I also gave them the telephone number of Tony, HS0/G4UAV, so they could discuss the antenna requirement before I arrived. They unfortunately failed to do this, which was a little embarrassing later on. The earliest appointment they could give me to view some apartments they had lined up was the Thursday so in the meantime I started looking in the advertisements in the Bangkok Post and one of the first was for a three bedroom apartment all with bathroom en-suite, 120 sq. meters. (1260 sq. ft.). It was located about 20 minutes walk from the Silom area,

and across the road from the British Club which has a gym and swimming pool. The building is ten storeys high and the landlord has given me permission to erect antennas on the roof, so I shall expect to be on the air from the new apartment some time later in the year. He has also promised to provide the very necessary document required before the issue of a station license, a letter saying that he is the owner of the building and that he grants me permission to operate an Amateur Station from his building

When I eventually went with Collier Jardines on the Thursday before signing the lease on the building that I had found, I wanted to see what, if anything, they could offer. But after showing them a picture of the Lightening Bolt Quad, which is what I intend to put up, they seriously reconsidered what they could show me, and we eventually only looked at one flat, for the same price and size as the one that I had found but it was on the 16th floor of a 20-story building. On investigating the roof, the whole of the open roof space was taken up by solar panels for water heating and the lift housing roof was an antenna farm of VHF and television antennas, no hope for me there.

So I decided to go ahead with the flat that I had found and signed a lease for four years at £1,045 a month. Other costs are maid service, three times a week for £26 a month, and all washing is done at 2.2 pence an item. No more ironing for me.

To get on the air, however, is another matter. First you have to obtain a local operator's license which I managed to do with Tony's help. Next of course you have to get a transceiver. There is only one shop selling HF transceivers, mainly Kenwood so an expat coming to Thailand would rather bring his own equipment with him. To bring a transceiver into the Kingdom you have to obtain a license to do so, then you have to get a station license with a letter from the landlord/owner of the building you're in, permitting you to operate from his building. So you can imagine how difficult it can be unless you have the cards stacked in your direction. In my case this has, with the help of Thida and Tony, been fantastic. The week after I arrived arrangements were made for me to go and see Thida Denpruektham HS1ASC, the Editor of "100 Watts" Thailand's top circulation Amateur Radio Magazine. I spent the morning in her office whilst she was in a meeting, catching up on the latest QST and Amateur Radio magazines from Australia. We then went to a Pizza Hut for a quick lunch before presenting ourselves at the offices of the Post and Telegraph Department, where I was introduced to the section head responsible for Radio Amateur Licensing, after which I was taken upstairs to meet Aran Promrata, the Director of Radio Communication Licensing Division.

Peter HS1RMS, who works with Thida, arrived shortly later and after introductions were completed we were allowed to stay in the Director's office for the rest of the afternoon whilst action was taken to get the application for the import license typed up in the Thai Language, along with the various documents needed for the application such as a copy of the operator's license, a copy of my passport and the specification for the radio I was trying to import, a Yaesu FT1000. Unfortunately all the documentation for this radio was in my packing cases in storage in Hong Kong. Tony HS0/G4UAV, with great presence of mind, the night before had got onto the Internet and accessed and downloaded the specs from the Yaesu USA Web page. He had faxed them over to me the night before and I had photo copies made ready for the application that afternoon.

During discussions that afternoon in the Director's office it was felt that if a copy of a previous application for import of an FT1000 could be made available it would help the whole process. Everyone, bar me,

had a mobile telephone in the office and I was fascinated when Thida made two calls, one to an amateur in Southern Thailand at Lang Suan where HS8JJ had previously imported an FT1000. He was unfortunately unable to help so another call was made to Surin to HS4ADZ. Who, obliging within 5 minutes, faxed the necessary document to the Director's facsimile. With this and my signature duly inscribed on every document the lot was submitted for approval, and I was subsequently advised that the license would be available for me in 48 hours!!!

To receive such service was to me astonishing and was just another example of how wonderful the people of Thailand can be, plus of course the networking of knowing the people involved who can help when asked. As an extra bonus at 1630 hours Dr. Kitti Yupo, Director General of the PTD came into the office and chatted to us for twenty minutes and I was invited to join in a glass of Chivas Regal with the two Directors. What an afternoon. We also managed to lobby the Director General personally about the reciprocity matter still outstanding between the Government of the UK and the Kingdom of Thailand.

Whilst all this has been going on I have been exploring the different stores to buy things like a television, a facsimile, bedding and other small items of furniture, as although the apartment is let as fully furnished there are still quite a lot of small items to obtain. I shall also be buying a 17" NEC Multisync monitor and HP LaserJet L5 so that when I am in Bangkok, I can plug my lap top in. I expect to be travelling a lot during the next 12 months so I am going to wait until next May before I buy another multimedia PC as I want to wait for the new DVD drives to be commonly available, before investing in another machine.

The next item on the agenda will be to attend the monthly meeting of the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand, which is held the first Sunday of each month and usually takes the form of a social gathering and a buffet lunch, a great opportunity to meet and chat with all the other hams. No official business is carried out, this being left to the Committee who also meet monthly to look after the Society's interests. After which it will be off to Hong Kong to collect and bring back to Bangkok the FT1000, in eager anticipation of getting the tower and Quad up on the roof of the apartment building.

I shall look forward very much to being on the air again, from the Kingdom of Thailand, Will I have further problems of obtaining the Station License...? erection of an antenna.....? getting all my equipment passed customs and PTD inspection....? and hopefully with a full Thai license. More to come.

BERU

Bob Whelan, G3PJT

EACH YEAR IN BERU WE HAVE HEADQUARTERS STATIONS; FOR THE UK IT IS GB5CC. THE STATION OPERATOR CHANGES EACH YEAR BUT WE WOULD REALLY LIKE TO MAKE A BIG IMPACT IN 1997 AS IT IS THE 60TH CONTEST. DAVE G4BUO, HAL, G2HLU AND MYSELF ARE MOUNTING A PUBLICITY DRIVE TO GET AS MANY COMMONWEALTH STATIONS ON AS POSSIBLE.

A NUMBER OF CDXC CW TYPES ENTER THE CONTEST OF COURSE BUT IF CDXC WOULD LIKE TO PUT TOGETHER A GOOD STATION AND A GROUP OF OPERATORS AND RUN GB5CC I THINK IT COULD BE A GOOD THING. IT CAN BE A MULTI-OP EFFORT BUT IT DOES NEED TO BE FROM A GOOD STATION. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE FOR THE FULL 24 HOURS BUT IT DOES HAVE TO COVER THE DAWN AND DUSK AND THE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY DAYLIGHT PERIODS.

DAVE AND I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM ANYONE INTERESTED AT CDXC, ESPECIALLY IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT ON A REGULAR BASIS.

DXCC REPORT

DXCC AWARDS

This new CDXC Newsletter feature will list all UK award recipients appearing in QST. The first list includes callsigns, with their DXCC credits, from the September, 1996 issue of QST:

NEW MEMBERS

Mixed	GI3HNM	132
	GM0VRP	109
Phone	G0MUR	128
	G0UWB	107
CW	GI0PCU	114

ENDORSEMENTS

Mixed	G3AAE	378
	G3AAG	253
	G3GIQ	360
	G3HQX	200
	G3HTA	355
	G3LQP	353
	G3RZP	319
	G3VXJ	328
	G4BWP	336
	G0NXJ	310
	GI0PCU	129
	GM3YTS	331
Phone	G3HQX	152
	G3LQP	351
	G3RZP	200
	G3UAS	316
	G4BWP	336
CW	G3HQX	127
	G3VXJ	277
	G4BWP	333
	GM3YTS	329
RTTY	G4BWP	257
160M	G4BWP	175
80M	G4BWP	284
40M	G4BWP	321
	GM3YTS	204
10M	G4BWP	319

The July QST carried the latest **Honor Roll listings**. Needless to say (P5!) there were a lot of Top Guns missing from the prestigious #1 Slot. The full listing is also published in the RSGB DX News Magazine, but here are brief details of UK positions (based on 327 current countries):

Needing 1	G4ADD	G4BUE	**Needing 5**	**Needing 8**
	G4BWP	G4DDS		
G0CGL	G4EDG		G0DQS	G0LOG
G3AAE	G4FEU	**Needing 3**	G3ALI	G3KAA
G3GIQ	G4GED		G3FKM	G3OHN
G3HCT	G4GIR	G3KLL	G3VKW	G3PLP
G3HTA	G4IUF	G3LNS	G4PTJ	G3RUX
G3JEC	G4WFZ	G3RCA	GM3AWW	G3TMA
G3KDB	GM3BQA	G3TXF	GM4KLO	G3VIE
G3KMA	GM3ITN	G4LVQ		G3VJP
G3LQP	GW3AHN	G4ZYQ	**Needing 6**	G3VOF
G3NLY	GW3ARS			G4DYO
G3NSY	GW3CDP	**Needing 4**	G3VXJ	GM4YMM
G3RTE	GW4BLE		G4LJF	
G3SJH		G3PJK	GM0AXY	**Needing 9**
G3SNN	**Needing 2**	G3VMW		
G3TJW		G4CNY	**Needing 7**	G3JAG
G3UML	G3COJ	G4ELZ		
G3WPF	G3KYF	GM3CIX	G3IFB	
G3ZAY	G3MXJ	GM3WIL	G4DXW	
G3ZBA	G3XTT	GM3YTS	GI3IVJ	

DXCC 2000?

The original object of CDXC, or should we say of those who founded CDXC, was to get members on to the prestigious ARRL DXCC Honor Roll, largely by a system of passing information and mutual assistance via the "two bells" and 2m contact frequency. It is hoped that this remains the ultimate ambition of those who have not yet achieved this pinnacle in DXing. For those who have not yet experienced the cosmic experience of seriously chasing DX, here's what world-renowned DXer Jim Smith, VK9NS, had to say when he received his #1 Plaque from Newington:

"Fellow DXers. It is 10 am here on Norfolk

Island, Tuesday 28th September, 1993 and I have just returned from the Post Office. Something "too large" for my mail box awaited my collection. On collection it proved to be my #1 Honor Roll DXCC Plaque.

"At home I already had my name/callsign plate and pin received here a few days previously. A quick measurement of the plaque and my plate was almost ready for attachment..... I peeled off the backing paper and gently laid the name plate in the measured position. Stepping back I felt that it looked OK - yes, it was square; yes, it was central. With full confidence now I pressed the plate carrying my callsign firmly in place. There I was on a tiny island in the Pacific finally looking at my own - my very own - #1 Honor Roll Plaque for CW-SSB-MIXED.

"What can I say to everyone at DXCC - the years I have chased DX and the number of times that I have started again. Even after some 309 countries as P29JS, my most recent long-stay area, one would think enough is enough; should I really have to work Bouvet, Heard, South Sandwich, etc once again? Well, we know the answer to that question - we who are bitten by this DX bug and driven by the motivation of an award which has the stamp of integrity believe that it is something worth the effort.

"I have never forgotten my first application for DXCC and how excited I was at the idea of having that DXCC tag to my name. Then there were the days of Robbie, VQ4ERR, Don Wallace, W6AM and so many of the old DXers who set me on the DXCC road. It was fun being the rarest of many DX countries - being on Car Nicobar, operating of course with "verbal permission". But you know, Robbie and many like him were great people with that true love for DXing. One has to have a gut feeling and respect for DXing far above ticking countries on the ARRL DXCC List. Without that feeling it is hard for me to see why people do it and yet so many cannot be bothered to think about how a particular station is actually on the air.

"I wanted to thank everyone at DXCC for showing me that they cared about me - one DXer in the pile of thousands. To me it seems just a couple of weeks ago since I got the Ghana QSL card, the last one for CW, yet here I am on my tiny island with my computer print-out of my totals, my callsign plate in place and my label badge to boot. Stop me if I'm wrong, but this is what I call service. I owe everyone at DXCC a lot and the hospitality, always extended to me whenever I visit ARRL HQ, is also very special. I feel among friends."

That sums up a True Blue DXer's feelings about DXCC, which has come a long way since it was established in 1937, surviving several controversial revamps of the rules in the process. The fact that the DXCC Countries List remains the world standard for DXers, whether they actively chase DXCC or not, attests to the popularity of the programme and the reverence in which it is held by amateurs and SWLs world-wide. If ever there was an answer to the question "What is DX?", it has to be "DXCC".

With the new millenium fast approaching there are rumours in DX circles that DXCC is to be "re-started" from scratch in the year 2000. Shock! Horror! Understandably so, for many amateurs devote their entire lives to chasing Honor Roll and a significant percentage never make it. For many, especially those with not too many sunspot cycles remaining, the thought of starting afresh is unthinkable.

There is no question that a high DXCC score begets a certain status and the Old Timers with 360 stickers are truly the elders who deserve the utmost respect from the young QRPers. However, there has always been a feeling among younger DXers (weren't we all young once?) that there

should be an opportunity for them to have their achievements measured on the same scale as the #1 Honor Rollers. Obviously they stand little chance with 50+ deletions which they will never be able to work!

The fears of many Old Timers were echoed in this note from Bob Reed, WB2DIN:

".....there seems to be a move to make DXCC status a current type status rather than a lifetime earning. N2KW told me he urged a 10 year period where only stations worked during the last 10 years would count towards ones DXCC totals. You would have to rework a country within 10 years for it to still be a part of your totals."

This brought forth the following response from John Kanode, N4MM, Chairman/ DXCC-2000 Committee:

"I was the author of the motion to create the DXCC-2000 committee. I was planning to make the motion at the July, 1995 ARRL Board Meeting, however I was ask by some of the ARRL leadership to pospone it until the January, 1996 Board Meeting since there were a lot of DX related issues to act on at the July meeting. I agreed to do so. At the January, 1996 Board Meeting I made my motion to create the DXCC-2000 Committee and it passed unanimously.Since it was my idea, I got selected to be it's chairman. If for some reason, one does not like the idea of a Ad Hoc committee of Prominent DXers and ARRL Officials looking into all aspects of the DXCC Program, fine. Again everyone is entitled to their views but please do not try to blame the wrong party.

"There has been a lot of information floating around in the AR press and on various BBS in regards to what the DXCC-2000 has done or is about to do. None of this information is factual. The committee will have it's first inperson meeting on July 21, 1996 in Hartford, Ct. To date no decisions on any aspect of the DXCC Program have been made. Any official announcements in regards to this committee will be sent out from ARRL HQ."

What views do CDXC members have on DXCC2000? Submit your views for publication in the Newsletter now. If there is a general consensus of opinion among CDXC members about the future of DXCC it will be made known to the DXCC-2000 Committee. (Ed: See Chairman's Chat).

"...the number of countries worked is increasingly becoming the criterion of excellence among outstanding DX stations."
-Clinton B DeSoto, W1CBD, October 1935 QST

P5 - NORTH KOREA

If there is one single topic dominating DX discussions it has to be North Korea. Since Martti Laine and a few others managed to air the country "legitimately" last year, making only a couple of handfuls of contacts for demonstration purposes, the DX-world has argued on whether those contacts should count for DXCC. In this case, arguments are pointless as the operation was

quickly accepted for DXCC credit, P5 having been on "standby" pending a properly authorised operation for some time.

However, the arguments range from whether a country where amateur radio is normally forbidden should be added to the List, to the number of contacts required for a first operation to count. It is the latter topic which seems to be causing the most grief; understandably so as very, very few of the No.1 Honor Rollers managed a contact!

A fundamental principle of DXCC is good sportsmanship by the participants and even those Honor Rollers with world-beating stations will accept defeat if they just don't make it in the pile-up. However, when less than 20 contacts are made from a brand-new country - largely with "local" stations, the odds are stacked against 99.99% of DXers and many of them quite naturally question whether such an operation should be acceptable for DXCC credit. A counter argument is that many DX operations take place which, for one reason or another, only log a small number of QSOs and DXers should accept the rough with the smooth. However, most of these type of operations will be from countries which have been on the DXCC List for many years and at which everyone has had a reasonable shot.

Should any future revision to the DXCC Rules incorporate a proper definition of a first-time operation, i.e. the operation which will first add the country to the DXCC List? Should the rules specify how many contacts are required for "country validation"? Over what period should the contacts be made - e.g. should an operation lasting only one hour be acceptable, even if it resulted in 2000 QSOs over 5 bands? Equally, consider an operation lasting for a week which logs only a handful of QSOs due to equipment/propagation problems. Should there be a minimum number of countries worked during the operation (see IOTA Rules for the requirements which apply to that award programme) to ensure a reasonable distribution of QSOs? Without such a requirement it would be feasible for two amateurs to enter a potential new country, work each other on handy-talkies and have the country added to the DXCC List.

Who were the lucky few to work the first legit P5 operation? The July, '95 issue of the Japanese DX magazine "FIVE NINE" reported that those who successfully worked P5/OH2AM were:

20m SSB: JA1BK, OH3YI, ES1AR, JH1ORA, and DU3YL
40m CW: JA1UQP, JA1BK, JA1SNF, JA8EAT, JH1ORA, JR2SHA, JF3PEA, JA2VPO, JL1GZH, JA8GQZ, and 7L2STQ

Big question is - will those DXers submit their cards or will their consciences prick them and will they take pity on their fellows? Watch the Honor Roll listings in QST! Despite one's feelings on the ethics of this particular DXCC situation one has to admit that being one of just a handful atop HR must be a very nice feeling!

KH REVAMP ON THE CARDS?

U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka wants the Federal Government to give the state of Hawaii jurisdiction over seven U.S. possessions in the Pacific. Akaka's "Insular Areas Consolidation Act of 1996" would transfer jurisdiction over Baker Island (KH1), Jarvis Island (KH5), Howland Island (KH1), Johnston Atoll (KH3), Kingman Reef (KH5K), Midway Island (KH4), and Palmyra Atoll (KH5) to Hawaii (KH6).

The bill was prompted by the revelation that the new owners of Palmyra Atoll - KVR Inc. of New York - want to create a nuclear waste storage facility there. The Hawaii congressional delegation and state officials oppose the proposal. "My legislation will give the state of Hawaii a stronger voice in the fate of U.S. possessions in the Pacific that currently are not part of any state or territory", Akaka said.

UK DXCC PARTICIPANTS

Alan Jubb G3PMR

At a recent meeting of the CDXC Committee, we were discussing ways of increasing membership of CDXC by recruiting more active UK DXers.

An obvious starting point to get a list of a high proportion of active DXers is the DXCC Yearbook, which lists all amateurs who have updated their DXCC scores in the period October 1st to September 30th.

I analysed the 1995 DXCC Yearbook, and looked at all G calls to see what proportion are members of CDXC. The results are quite interesting.

Total number of updates:	318
Total non CDXC updates:	196
Total CDXC updates:	122
CDXC % of total:	38%

Total number of unique calls	204
Total non CDXC calls:	129
Total CDXC calls	75
CDXC % of total:	37%
% of CDXC G members updating:	33%

Whilst the numbers above don't cover all active UK DXers, as not all participate in the DXCC programme, and those who do may not have updated in the year, this applies to both CDXC members and non-members, so the ratios above probably give a picture which is broadly correct.

The results show that CDXC probably doesn't yet represent the majority of active UK DXers, but that target is well within reach.

Neville, G3NUG and I will be mailing the majority of non CDXC members in the list with a CDXC Prospectus in the near future.

NON CDXC Members Updating

G0CAC	G0CGL	G0DAY	G0DQS	G0FAH	G0FYX	G0JHC	G0KEY
G0KJV	G0LOG	G0LRS	G0LRX	G0LYZ	G0OOF	G0ORM	G0ORO
G0PAJ	G0PXJ	G0RUX	G0TUV	G1RST	G2ATM	G2BFO	G2DBT
G2TA	G3AAE	G3BJD	G3DVK	G3GMY	G3HKH	G3HQX	G3IFN
G3IZM	G3JAG	G3JEC	G3JFF	G3JJG	G3JNB	G3KKQ	G3KLL
G3KOX	G3KYF	G3LCS	G3LOJ	G3LQP	G3NDC	G3NLY	G3NSY
G3OHN	G3PJK	G3PLP	G3RCA	G3RED	G3RUX	G3SJH	G3TJW
G3VMW	G3VOF	G3WOS	G3WPF	G3WPT	G3WZ	G3YEC	G3YJI
G3ZJF	G3ZJP	G4ADD	G4AFU	G4AHJ	G4BLX	G4BWP	G4CFW
G4CNY	G4DDS	G4DXW	G4EDG	G4EHT	G4EIX	G4ELZ	G4ETJ
G4FEQ	G4FEU	G4GIR	G4KGT	G4LDS	G4LUE	G4LVQ	G4OBE
G4PTJ	G4SSH	G4VBI	G4VKK	G4XRV	G4XTA	G4YAQ	G4ZYQ
G5LP	G6HKM	G7BXS	GI0KOW	GI0SAP	GI0UJG	GI3FJX	GI3IVJ
GI4MWA	GJ4ICD	GM0AXY	GM0DEQ	GM0SMT	GM0SRD	GM0TTY	GM3AWW
GM3CIX	GM3ITN	GM3PPE	GM3WIL	GM3YOR	GM4KLQ	GM4SID	GM4YMM
GS0STB	GU3MBS	GU6YB	GW0ANA	GW0MAW	GW3AHN	GW3CDP	GW4EAI
GW4LBQ							

CDXC Members Updating

G0ATX	G0FSP	G0HXN	G0KRL	G0LUQ	G0MFO	G0NYL	G0ORH
G0SBQ	G0SWG	G0WAZ	G3ALI	G3COJ	G3FKM	G3GHS	G3GIQ
G3HCT	G3HTA	G3JJZ	G3KAA	G3KDB	G3KMA	G3KWK	G3LNS
G3MXJ	G3NKC	G3NKS	G3NOH	G3OCA	G3OUF	G3PFS	G3PJT
G3PMR	G3PSM	G3RTE	G3RVM	G3RZP	G3SNN	G3TMA	G3TXF
G3UML	G3VDL	G3VIE	G3VKW	G3VXJ	G3WNI	G3XTA	G3XTT
G3YBT	G3ZAY	G3ZBA	G4BUE	G4DJX	G4DQW	G4DYO	G4FVK
G4IUF	G4JGV	G4JVG	G4LJF	G4OBK	G4OJH	G4OWT	G4PDQ
G4RKO	G4SFO	G4VXT	G4YRR	G8JM	GJ3LFJ	GM3BQA	GM3YTS
GW3ARS	GW3JXN	GW4BLE					

ZL8 - DID YOU WORK IT?

Among the more exciting DXpeditions so far this year was the ZL8RI operation back in May. If you are a new DXer and you have it in the log you cannot believe how lucky you are! Kermadec Islands has always been difficult to work from the UK due to the propagation path over the North Pole and many G OTs still need a contact. That, plus the difficulty in actually mounting a DXpedition to the place, means that only around once every ten years will UK DXers have a good shot at this rare one.

Hope nobody confused ZL8RI and ZS8IR?

A PERMANENT FIXTURE?

Only time will tell...

DXCC COUNTRIES LIST

The ARRL DXCC Countries List - the *only* countries list for the serious DXer. The 28 page booklet contains the full list of current and deleted countries com-plete with 8-band and 5-mode check boxes, details of CQ and ITU Zones, full ITU call-sign allocations, names and addresses of DXAC members and DXCC Field Representatives, plus much more. The List costs $5, including first class air mail, from ARRL HQ. Apply by mail, telephone, FAX or Email quoting your credit card number for *fast* service.

A5 BHUTAN

Further to the note in issue #102, Barry, ZS1FJ, is one of many who have applied to operate from Bhutan, but that does not mean he is going to get permission!

Don't hold your breath - A5 seems a little way off yet, but one top DXer has good contacts there and may be QRV before long.

VK0WH SOON QRT

Warren, VK0WH, goes QRT and leaves Macquarie Island in October. Latest information is that there will be another amateur in the replacement team so Macquarie may be QRV through until October, 1997 at least.

(*Ed:* Thanks to a tip from a very good friend on Norfolk Island I managed to snag Warren on 40 for a new CW country - just 4 to go now! The story of how I worked him might be published later).

CAN IT BE TRUE?

Today, while I was connected to the local PacketCluster, I received a "talk" from a local guy asking me advice on how the Cluster works. His question was: "*When I see a DX spot, can I contact him with a 'talk', and would this be valid for DXCC?*"

Unbelievable but true. 73 de Tony 10JX

EVERY DXPEDITION IS THE WORST EVER-

-UNTIL IT'S IN THE LOG!

73 KHZ BAND QUAD

For the new band allocation, G4DYO would like to hear from anyone with access to carbon-fibre fishing rod blanks about 2,500 yards long!

73kHz Honor Roll anyone?

DXCC COUNTRIES LIST CHANGES

Here are the changes to the DXCC countries list from 1980 to present:

1980	Deleted	Okino-Tori-Shima
1981	New	SMOM
1982	Deleted	Kamaran Island
1982	Deleted	Seranna Bank
1982	Deleted	Bajo Nuevo
1982	Deleted	Saudi/Iraq Neutral Zone
1985	New	British Sovereign Bases on Cyprus
1987	New	Peter I Island (Note 1)
1988	New	Aruba
1988	New	Western Sahara (Note 2)
1989	New	M-V Island
1989	New	Rotuma Island
1989	New	Conway Reef
1990	New	Banaba Island
1990	New	Walvis Bay
1990	Deleted	East Germany
1990	Deleted	Yemen Arab Republic (4W)
1990	Deleted	PDR Yemen (7O)
1990	New	Yemen
1990	New	Penguin Islands
1992	New	Croatia (9A) As of June 26, 1991.
1992	New	Slovenia (S5) As of June 26, 1991.
1992	New	Bosnia-Herzogovina (T9, 4N4) As of Oct. 15, 1991.
1993	Deleted	Abu Ail. As of March 31, 1991
1993	New	Macedonia (Z3, 4N5-YU5) Effective September 8, 1991
1993	Deleted	Czechoslovakia (OK) Effective January 1, 1993
1993	New	Czech Republic (OK-OL) Effective January 1, 1993
1993	New	Slovak Republic (OM) Effective January 1, 1993
1993	New	Eritrea (E3, ET2) Effective May 24, 1991 (Note 3)
1994	Deleted	Walvis Bay (ZS9). Effective March 1, 1994 counts as V5, Namibia.
1994	Deleted	Penguin Islands (ZS0). Effective March 1, 1994 counts as V5, Namibia.
1995	New	North Korea (P5). Effective July 16, 1995. QSLs accepted wef 1 Oct 1995
1995	New	Pratas Is (BV9). Effective January 1, 1994. QSLs accepted wef 1 Apr 1996
1996	New	Scarborough Reef (BS). Effective January 1, 1995. QSL cards will be accepted April 1, 1996. Note 4.

Note 1: Peter 1 was approved for DXCC country status in 1983, but was not added to the list until its first operation in January 1987.

Note 2: With regard to Western Sahara, this action was actually a reversal of the deletion of Rio de Oro which took place in 1978.

Note 3: Eritrea is a reinstatement of a country that was deleted as of November 15, 1962. QSOs for ET2 contacts prior to this date will be removed from the deleted list and credited as a current country. QSL cards may be submitted for credit January 1, 1994. This action was by the ARRL Awards Committee on Sept. 29, 1993.

Note 4: The first accredited operation from Scarborough Reef took place in April 1995. The 1994 DXpedition did not qualify as a land-based operation.

There are now 329 countries on the active DXCC list and 57 deleted countries. With the deletion of Walvis Bay and the Penguin Islands as of March 1, 1994, it will take 320 countries on the active list to qualify for Honor Roll.

Updated by Bill Hellman, NA2M, ARRL Hudson Division DXAC Representative.

GENERAL TOPICS

HAM RADIO - THE FUTURE?

William R Bradford K7EA

Times change...My first love (ham-wise) is Morse/CW. Wow!, DX CW on 21007 is Nirvana, and I pity those who don't/won't experience the beauty of it. It is a true language in it self, steeped in tradition, and satisfying to the soul. But now we have no-code licenses, and even ships at sea no longer require a qualified Morse operator. 2 meter chit-chatters and packet operators don't have to even think about who Samuel F.B. Morse was. Mine is the last generation of those who will enjoy ham radio CW.

Packet radio helped bring digital modes to ham radio some 15 years ago. A lot has changed since then. Automatic message forwarding, PBBS's, Nodes, Internet, landline BBS's, etc., etc. And ham radio but a small segment of the entire telecommunications revolution.

The potential new hams of today don't give a dang about "pure radio", or want to learn Morse before they get their license - they just want to communicate. Growing up with the World Wide Web, MTV, and the Internet makes it harder for us to let them know how wonderful ham radio really is. But should we remain hard core and insist that "real hams" don't use the Internet? That packet message forwarding must never use the telephone? To do so will only alienate the potential future generation of Hams. Nowadays Elmers need to integrate Ham Radio into the overall landscape of communications possibilities, and let the newbies know about the tradition of CW, radio in emergencies, field days, sweep-stakes contests and the Wouff Hong.

So telephone forwarding, and using telephone numbers in message forwarding headers is now common - the facts of life. Some folks, who either living in the past, or are flame baiting, insist that it is not "Pure Ham Radio" to use anything other than radios on ham bands to pass messages/ QSO's.

Well Philo never thought of colour TV, (much less 16x9 HD Television Broadcasting - see it in 4 years), and Samuel never thought of SSB, (nor AM which is now obsolete), and Alexander never thought of a 28,800 bps modem, and The Old Man (Hiram Percy) never thought of packet radio.

Yes, someday, the electricity will go off, so let's all be ready with portable gear on batteries and generator, but in the mean time we need to embrace the new emerging technologies. When the cell sites are knocked out, we'll need radios for local communications, but to say that "only radio is acceptable, everywhere, all the time" is like saying that we ought to stick with horses because we might run out of gas (which might be true). But welcome to today; aren't we all caught in the web? So I forward messages via telephone. Who is to say I'm a Land Line Lid? I get the job done: Communicating. So my telephone number is listed in the forwarding path. So what? My kids will think Morse is akin to the pony express, and if times get really bad, maybe we'll need horses to deliver the mail, and hope that we have old silver coins. Teach the new folks that Ham Radio is an important and exciting part of the change. This kind of thought will keep Ham Radio alive.

ONLY TWO GROUPS OF PEOPLE

ENJOY FLATTERY.....

WOMEN

AND RADIO AMATEURS!

THE BOOK NO DXER SHOULD BE WITHOUT!

Are you an actor or are you an appreciative member of the audience? All is revealed in the book - *Where Do We Go Next?* - Martti Laine's classic work on DXpeditions and other matters DX. G4DYO has a few copies, available *only* to CDXC members, for the special price of £8, inclusive of post and packing. Before sending money please contact Bren by phone for further details.

BERU - THE BOOK

Leading DX stations, such as 9J2BO, ZL1AIZ, VK3XB/KS, ex VK4YL, G3VDL/MP4BBE, VK4XA/VK9XK, G5RI and G3MXJ, from over a dozen countries give their views on this unique contest. Life and amateur radio in the Empire and Commonwealth from the 1930s to the present day. Winners stories, how they did it, what actually happened by VS9MG, VP8GQ, 5N2JKO, and others. Extracts from the secret contest diaries of Rusty, G5WP, and Al, G3FXB. Contest preparation, stations and tactics by G4BUO, VK2BJ, VE3EJ and others. Commentary at the time and results. Over 80 original photographs, *limited edition*. Price £15 plus pp (UK £1.25).

Available from: Bob Whelan, G3PJT, 36 Green End, Comberton, Cambridge, CB3 7DY

CAN IT BE TRUE?

That Heil mic inserts are manufactured in the UK, exported to the USA and then exported again for sale in the UK - with an appropriate adjustment in price?

CONGRATULATIONS

For Bob Rylatt, G3VXJ, the ZL8RI QSL was his No.324 confirmation for DXCC.

MARCONI

On 17 July Gioia Marconi Braga, Guglielmo Marconi's daughter, died in New York at 80 years of age. Born in London, she had studied in Italy. In 1954 she married George Atkinson Braga and went to the US, where she worked for the NBC. In 1974 she founded the Marconi International Fellowship Council, for the development of scientific and cultural relationships between Italy and the United States.

TECHNICAL TIPS #1

According to one expert, heard discussing antenna theory on 27Mz, USB is transmitted from the top of the antenna whereas LSB comes from the bottom - hence USB is better for DXing.

(*Ed*: Now I know why my 80m signal was so poor! However, not to be outdone in the pile-ups, I have taken down my 80m vertical and re-erected it the other way up. QRX for progress reports).

RSGB HF CONVENTION

As noted in the last edition of CDXC Newsletter, a great deal of voluntary help is required to ensure the smooth running of the forthcoming HF Convention. Help is especially needed in two areas:

1. Assisting Bill Kennamer, K5FUV, with the checking of QSL cards for DXCC. This involves receiving, organising and returning (not losing!!) bundles of cards whilst Bill does the actual checking.

2. Assistance with the erection and dismantling of road sisgns in the area adjacent to the Convention venue. Those with close knowledge of the Windsor/ Runnymede area would be most suitably equipped!

If you can help with these aspects, or with any other, please contact Fred Handscombe, G4BWP, ASAP. **Tel: 01638-552080**

PROPAGATION *Jim Smith, G0OFE*

Solar activity in June and July continued to be at a very low level, but there were signs of a recovery in activity to levels somewhat above the levels seen in the last few months.

The average solar flux in June and July was 69.6 and 71.2 units respectively. The highest daily value was 84, on 9th July, and the lowest daily value was 65, on 18/20/21 July. The figure of 65 is lower than any daily value recorded during the last solar minimum in 1986, and caused consternation to DX Cluster users trying to enter the WWV into their local nodes - the software won't allow a value lower than 66 to be entered! However, the 84 recorded on 9th July was the highest since the first week of January this year, and WWV reported a solar flare. This jump in activity was almost matched during the following solar rotation during the first week of August, giving just the faintest of hopes that the minimum might be passing.. more on this in a moment.

The rolling 27-day average of solar flux (i.e. over one solar rotation) began the period at 70 units, fell to 68 units by mid-June - the lowest so far during this solar minimum phase - and recovered to 72 units, which is the highest since February. The three-month mean solar flux, which fell below 70 (for the first time since 1986) at the beginning of June, was climbing again to end the period at 70.5 units.

The annual smoothed mean solar flux at the end of July (and centred on the end of January 1996) was 72.3. This is lower than at the last minimum in 1986 (73.0). It will be difficult to determine the timing of solar minimum until several months after it has actually occurred. My own hunch is that it will probably turn out to have been in May this year, unless there is a substantial upturn in activity in the next three months or so. The recent small increase in activity offers just a tiny hope of this. There was a 'hump' in activity last October which will need to be matched if the smoothed annual mean is not to fall even further.. we will have to wait and see. Maybe things will be a bit clearer six months from now!

The low solar activity has been offset to an extent by the quiet geomagnetic conditions. The average 'A index' of magnetic activity has hovered around 7-8 units, the only disturbed day being June 6th with 23 units. If this trend continues through the winter, low-band conditions will hopefully be outstanding again.

With effect from the next issue I hope to include some graphs in my solar reports.

SUNRISE & SUNSET TIMES

A selection of SR/SS times representing the more interesting DX areas for the coming weeks. Is this a useful feature to add to the Newsletter?

QTH	DATE	SR	SS
3B8	1 Oct	0152	1408
3V	1 Oct	0514	1704
4S	1 Oct	0029	1233
5R	1 Oct	0234	1450
5W	1 Oct	1710	0523
9G	1 Oct	0548	1753
9M2	1 Oct	2300	1106
9Y	1 Oct	0954	2156
AP	1 Oct	0056	1249
BY	1 Oct	2110	0959
JA	1 Oct	2036	0828
KH6	1 Oct	1622	0420
LU	1 Oct	0931	2156
VK0 Mac	1 Oct	1852	0737
VK6	1 Oct	2155	1018
ZL1	1 Oct	1758	0624
ZS8IR	1 Oct	0300	1536

PARCHMENT PAGE

What better way to start this new feature in Newsletter than by announcing a brand new award sponsored by Scotland's GMDX Group:

THE ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND AWARD

The GMDX Group is delighted to announce the launch of the above award from September 1 1996. The Islands of Scotland have been classified into ten distinct Island groups and there is an overall total of 120 islands. The islands contained within the Island Directory are the only ones eligible for these awards. No other Islands will be added. In order to encourage operations from the islands there will be two classes of awards, one for the chasers and the other for those that who go out and activate the islands (the Activators).

We hope this award will encourage Amateur Radio Operators from around the world (including the UK!) to contact or visit and activate some of the most beautiful and remote parts of Scotland. Applicants should be licensed radio amateurs. A Short Wave Listener qualifies for the chasers award.

Chasers and activators have different goals to achieve and the awards are graded as follows.

	Chasers	Activators
Basic	10 islands in 6 groups	5 islands in 3 groups
Silver	25 islands in 7 groups	12 islands in 4 groups
Gold	50 islands in 8 groups	25 islands in 5 groups
Supreme	75 islands in 10 groups	40 islands in 7 groups

Chasers must submit proof of contact with stations as designated above. Activators must show evidence that they have made a minimum of 100 contacts from each island claimed. Those interested in pursuing this award should, in the first instance, apply for the Scottish Islands Directory which gives full details of the awards and is available for £6 or $10 from Dave GMOLVI, Law Vista,High Street, Errol, Perthshire, Scotland, U.K. PH2 744. The directory will also be available from the GMDX stand at conventions.

BAFARA AWARD

Instituted by the Belgian Air Force Amateur Radio Association, this award is available to all licensed amateurs and Short Wave Listeners. Points required:

ON stations : 10 points
EU stations : 5 points
DX stations : 3 points

Contacts made/heard with BAFARA stations = 1 point

Contacts made/heard with BAFARA CLUB stations = 2 points

Each station may be contacted/heard. There are NO band or mode restrictions. Contacts via relay stations and/or automatic stations are NOT allowed. Only contacts made/heard

after 01 January 1992 are valid.

Valid BAFARA stations: (update 22 May 96): ON1AEW, AKK, AOG, APF, ATZ, AYH, AZH, BCS, BDD, BOZ, BPJ, BPP, BPS, BSX, BUX, BXD, BXO, BZK, BZO, BZU, CDK, CGD, CIP, CLD, CLO, CMO, CV, DG, DDN, HU, HQ, IR, IT, KFE, KGC, KJU, KLZ, KPM, KYC, LAL, LJL, LOF, MAS, RE, TY, XC, ON2ADX, AHJ, AIT, KDF, LAW, ON4AGV, ALL, ANE, ANM, AWK, AWN, AXV, AYP, BAJ, BDJ, BDK, BEV, BZ, CAN, CBS, CBY, CCB, DD, HG, KBL, KR, KZF, MS, MW, NG, OK, PD, TE, TJ, WL, ZL, ON5AP, DT, GX, HL, HO, JR, ME, MN, SX, ON6AS, CT, EB, HC, JE, KL, NU, TA, TJ, UG, VP, WR, XI, XP, ON7AV, BQ, EB, EC, EH, HO, HQ, HS, II, JF, NW, OG, QI, QJ, SR, SU, SV, WG, YP, ON8MC, ON9CMR, KC5GBM.

BAFARA Club stations: ON4BAF (Royal Technical School BAF Saffraanberg), ON6AF (Special Event Station BAFARA), ON6AP (10W TAC Kleine Brogel).

Send requests with GCR list or QSL cards for SWL (cards will be returned) to: Lode Keenens ON6KL, Oudestraat 4, B3560 Lummen, Belgium.

Price of the award: 200 Belgian Fr, 7 US dollar or 6 IRC's

Bafara stations are QRV on Sunday mornings from 10.00 - 12.00 local time in ON on 80m (3,665 MHz SSB). Llisten/call for ON6MS/ON4TJ.

TABARCA AWARD

The Tabarca Award is sponsored by the TABARCA ISLAND DX CLUB, in collaboration with the local Alicante branch of the U.R.E., the Spanish Amateur Radio Society. The Award is available to all Amateur Radio Operators and Shortwave Listeners worldwide who have made contact with or have logged (SWL) different islands within the EA5 district.

All contacts made in any one mode or mixed mode, SSB, CW, RTTY, from August 1985 onwards are valid.

REQUIREMENTS:

EA.-(EA6-EA8-EA9).- Confirmation required from 10 islands in the EA5 district. 2 of the 3 I.O.T.A. references that refer to this district must be included (EU-69, EU-93, EU-151).
EU.- Confirmation required from 5 islands in the EA5 district. 2 of the 3 I.O.T.A. references that refer to this district must be included (EU-69, EU-93, EU-151).
DX.- Confirmation required from 3 islands in the EA5 district. 2 of the 3 I.O.T.A. references that refer to this district must be includeded (EU-69, EU-93, EU-151).

To obtain this Award, a certified list with full details of the contacts should be sent. It is not necessary to send the original QSL cards, but they should be available if the Award Manager requests them to be forwarded. The cost of the Award for DX and EU countries is 4$ US or 4 IRC.

An aerial photograph of Tabarca Island in full colour (420mm x 350mm) will be sent together with the first 100 Awards.

All applications to: DX Club Tabarca Island, PO Box 3097, 03080 Alicante, Spain.

WILD ROSE COUNTRY AWARD

Available to all hams and SWL's who work/hear VE6 stations on any band, any mode including satellites and packet. There is no fee for this award it is sponsored by the Amateur Radio League of Alberta.

Contacts required are as follows:

VE6 stations - 30; USA stations - 15;
All other VE's - 20; All others - 10.

There is no time limit for this award. Send your log info with a 9 x 12 envelope. Please enclose the following for return postage:

Canadians - 90 cent stamp; USA - 2IRC's or green stamps; All others 4 IRC's or green stamps. Send to: VE6SRC Stu Crawford, 6354 Bowview Rd NW, Calgary, Alberta T3B 2H8, Canada

SCHWERTER DIPLOMA - GERMANY

This short term award is issued by DARC Division Schwerte (DOK O06) on the occasion of the 600th anniversary of the city of Schwerte. SWL OK.

Europeans need 20 points, all others 10 points. Any O06 member counts 2 points, the clubstations of DOK O06 (DL0ZR, DF0FBG, DF0JVA) count 3 points and all other stations of an O DOK count 1 point.

Contacts made during calendar years 1996 and 1997 only are valid. All bands and modes are acceptable and a station may be worked on different bands for points. Germans need at least 6, all others need 3 stations in DOK O06.

Send a GCR list and fee of DM10 or 5 IRC's to: Josef Knoll DL4DBG, Eichenweg 3, D-58239 Schwerte, Germany.

JARL 70TH ANNIVERSARY AWARD SERIES

The Japan Amateur Radio League celebrates it's 70th anniversary and offers an interesting 5 level series of awards available to all amateurs and SWL's. Contacts must be made during the time period 1 June 1996 to 31 May 1997:

The following are the award levels:

J - Award: Contact at least 7 different Japanese prefixes.
A - Award: Contact 7 or more different DXCC countries, not including JA/JD.
R - Award: Contact 7 or more different JARL memorial stations whose prefix is 8J or JA*RL/JA*YRL/JR6RL.
L - Award: Contact 7 or more different Japanese stations from different grid squares in Japan. (4-digit)
70 - Award: Contact 70 or more different JA stations on one band or mode.

Applications will be accepted after 1 August 1996 and before 31 December 1997. Send a log extract and fee of 800 Yen (non JARL members) or 400 Yen or 6 IRC's for foreign applicants to: JARL Award Desk, PO Box 377, Tokyo Central, Japan.

PORTUGUESE IS PLAQUE

The Portuguese Islands Plaque (P.I.P.) program aims to increase the interest in the CT, CU and CT3 Islands. The Portuguese Islands Plaque is issued to any licensed amateur station and SWL presenting proof of contact with a MINIMUM OF 50 Portuguese Islands on HF, any band, (SSB, CW and Mixed), since 01 January of 1985.

There is no connection between this program and the DIP, nevertheless until 23 of June 1996 the references for both programs stand the same, with the single difference that a "P" is added on the reference. E.g. The DIP Ref' for Insua Island is MI-001, for the Portuguese Islands Plaque will be MI-001P. After the mentioned date, new islands can be added to the program if a new reference is requested to the Plaque manager. Note that a new Island must qualify under the Portuguese Islands Plaque rules.

An application must be accompanied by the Plaque fee and a certified list of the confirmed Islands, this list must show the Date, Hour, Freq., Mode, Call, Island Ref' and Island name. The list must be certified by an Amateur Radio organisation or by two Radio-amateurs, in any case the Plaque Manager can request the QSL cards for verification, if needed. The mahogany and metal plaque costs $50, including air mail. Apply to: P.I.P. Program Manager: CT1FMX, Jorge Santos, P.O.Box 189, P-2562 Torres Vedras, Portugal

RULES FOR CDXC HONOR ROLL CHASER TABLE

The next table will be published in the November issue of the Newsletter and entries must be sent to G4DYO in good time.

Rules:

Open to all CDXC members

Open to UK non-members

Open to those who have already achieved HR status

Qualifying number: 250 current DXCC Countries confirmed in one or more of the categories: CW, SSB and Mixed, with both current and all-time confirmed scores being shown.

Position in the table will be based on the current confirmed score in the Mixed category. For single mode entries, the mixed score will be assumed to be equal to the mode score.

UK non-members will be shown one time only. They will be encouraged to join CDXC and will be deleted from future tables if they remain a non-member.

Entries to be sent to the Newsletter Editor by the usual publication deadline.

The table will be published in the July, November and March issues of the Newsletter.

Special CDXC Honor Roll Chaser Certificates are available to all entrants with scores of 270 or more who have not yet achieved Honor Roll status. Certificates are printed by the Newsletter editor and may be applied for at any time.

If you qualify and have not yet achieved HR status do please submit your score. If you are already on the table, please update your scores, even if they have not changed. Those not updating within a year of their last update will be deleted from the table

US DX CONVENTION

IS THE TIME RIGHT? Over the past few years, several members of the Northern Ohio DX Association (NODXA) have talked and thought about having a DX Convention in Cleveland. Now that the International DX Convention is no longer being held a week before the Dayton HamVention at Visalia, should NODXA take the step in having the first annual "North Coast DX Convention/EXPO"?

Messages read on InterNet from the DX Community seem to indicate they want something the weekend before Dayton. Just think of it, a DX Convention and Dayton Hamvention within a week and a three and one half hour drive between the two.. Maybe Cleveland is ready to have its first DX Convention.

NODXA would like to poll the DX Community on their views and thoughts of this possible event. We would ask that you answer the following questions below. Answers can be sent via E-mail to: *ncdxc_expo@barf80.nshore.org*

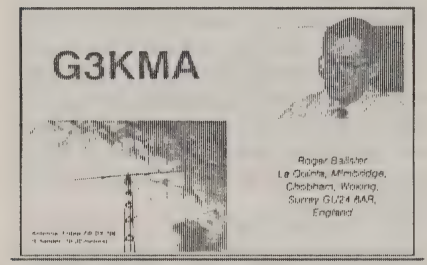
1. Would you attend the convention in Cleveland if it was held the weekend before the Dayton HamVention (or possibly the weekend after so as not to conflict with Mother's Day)?
2. Where will you be traveling from to attend the convention?
3. What type of forums would you attend (technical, DXpeditions, etc.)?
4. Would you/group/organization be interested in conducting a forum?
5. Would you/group/organization be interested in helping to sponsor the convention?
6. Any other comments you may have.

Your answers are very important to help us make our decision. Also, time is an important fact to get the ball rolling on this event.

NODXA thanks you for your input.

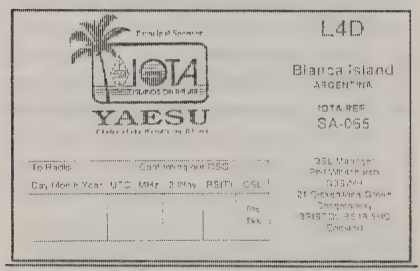
QSL CORNER

If you have a particularly interesting card send one along to your editor for inclusion in a forthcoming issue. To start the ball rolling here is our past-Chairman's QSL, which should be well-known to IOTA DXpeditioners world-wide:



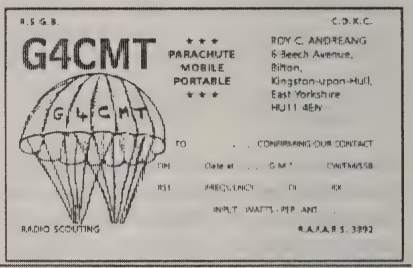
L4D - BLANCA ISLAND SA-065

Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH, has obtained the logs for this operation, which took place from 21-22 November, 1993, and will act as QSL Manager. The IOTA Committee has provided a supply of cards and Phil will respond to requests either direct (QTHR) or via the buro. Note that he CANNOT QSL other L4D operations, of which there have been several - some from mainland QTHs.



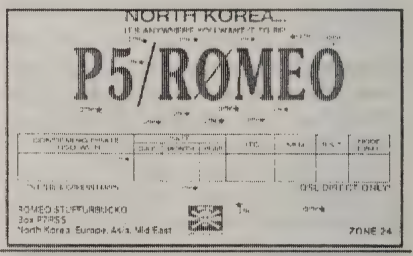
MOST UNUSUAL CARD?

If you have one of these cards in your collection, treasure it! It's not too often amateurs are QRV hanging from a parachute but that's exactly what CDXC member Roy, G4CMT did back in June. Not only that, Roy was 72 when he jumped and he's done it before! Great work Roy.



HMMMMMM...

If you have one of these, DON'T submit it for DXCC!



QSL INFO NEEDED?

Stuck for a QSL route? Try these Internet pages:

http://www.systemtechnik.tu-ilmenau.de/ham/qsldb_gate.html
http://www.systemtechnik.tu-ilmenau.de/ham/hamqsl.html
http://www-dx.deis.unibo.it/htlzh/
http://www.buck.com/cgi-bin/do_hamcall
http://prometl2.cineca.it/htlzh/search.html
http://www.qrz.com/cgi-bin/webcall
http://buck.com/cgi-bin/do_hamcall

HEY DON'T FORGET..

YOU CAN GET YOUR QSL CARDS CHECKED FOR DXCC CREDIT AT THE OCTOBER RSGB HF CONVENTION. SAVE YOURSELF A FORTUNE IN POSTAGE AND KNOW THE CARDS ARE SAFE!

KEYBOARD CORNER

Another new feature for the Newsletter which, it is hoped, will appear regularly. With the increasing use of computers in amateur radio for logging, station control, Cluster and BBS access, etc., there are a lot of topics to discuss. To start the ball rolling, here is an excellent article for all Cluster users. Read and digest!

CLUSTER ACCESS

Neil Smith, G4DBN, SYSOP GB7YDX

Here are some recommendations for ensuring the best possible performance of user access to the DX Cluster. Please note that I am assuming you are using a normal TNC2-style tnc or a BPQ node, Baycom and suchlike may be different, but most of this applies to any type of user station on a less busy channel, FRACK 5 RESP 2 MAX 2 PACLEN 80 PERSIST 80 RETRIES 15 SLOTTIME 80 will give better results but will stomp on other users if the channel is heavily used, reducing everyone's throughput.

The most critical setting is the TX deviation; in 90% of cases I deal with the problem is not params but deviation or receive levels. It's vital to have a clean and undistorted tx signal, with a deviation of 2-3kHz on the 2200Hz tone. On receive, levels are not too critical but it needs to be optimised by watching the monitored packets and turning the gain up and down until the upper and lower limits of decoding are found, then put the gain half-way between those extremes. The TXD setting will depend on your radio - start at 450ms and reduce it until your local node stops hearing you, then increase it by 50ms or 100ms to give reliable results. If the node doesn't hear you well whatever setting of TXD you use, then try reducing your deviation. As a guide, most old clunker radios with changeover relays need 400-450ms TXD, most squelched radios with diode changeover need 300-400ms and, if you are lucky to have an open-squelch DCD on your tnc and a dedicated data radio, 100ms or less is needed. We have found that some UHF radios with slow VCO/PLL loops can need over 500ms of TXD, but this is usually only at one extreme of their tuning range.

Cluster traffic is rather different from most general packet radio, in that almost all of the packets go from the cluster to the users, and that only a single packet is usually sent, interleaved with dozens of others for other users. A Node may send up to four spots in a single transmission, and these may be to four different users. If all four hear the entire transmission, they will all then attempt to reply with an ACK to report that they received the packet OK. If one starts sending but another cannot hear it the second may start sending as well, corrupting the first station's ACK. The Node will then have to wait for another transmission from both of them, but in the meantime, the other two stations are also both sending their ACKs, and the potential for collisions is obviously very great.

The PERSIST setting and SLOTTIME delay define how keen your tnc is to attempt to grab the channel. A slottime of about 100ms is normal, i.e. your tnc waits for a tenth of a second of no signal on the channel before starting to wait a random period of time before responding with an ACK. The ideal set-up for cluster traffic is a sharp beam, enough power to be a crushingly huge signal, a receiver which is just good enough to hear the node you connect to, and very slack parameters, i.e. a PERSIST of 50 or less and FRACK 7, RESP 3. If used on a BBS or for general packeting, this set-up would make you VERY unpopular, as it will

trample all over other users if you are doing a lot of sending of traffic. Unlike a BBS, Cluster Nodes manage the flow of outgoing message traffic being read by a user, so there is little chance of the channel being hogged by mail traffic, spots always over-ride the outgoing mail-reads, which are sent in batches of about 5 lines at a time. In addition your TXD should be the minimum possible for solidly reliable decoding, and your deviation levels and tx distortion should be optimised as best you can.

If you miss the odd packet, say one in eight that the Node sends you, of if the Node can't hear the ACKs, then the effect is out of all proportion, and by the time you are missing one in four, the channel will be full of collisions, missed ACKs, resends and all the usual debris caused by using a fairly old-fashioned land-line networking protocol in a multi-user, multi-protocol and unregulated environment for which it was never designed.

If you are leaving your packet gear running unattended (you HAVE told the RIS and given them a close-down list, HAVEN'T YOU????) then you can only run about 25 watts erp, so 10 watts to a medium colinear fed with ordinary coax is about the right level. When you are at the controls, you can run anything right up to 400W at the antenna, so a decent 45 watt radio to a beam isn't excessive if you are 25 miles from the node (again ONLY for cluster use; do that on the BBS and you'll have pins thru your coax in no time!).

In conclusion, here are the golden rules of cluster user access:

(1) Set your params slack as recommended.

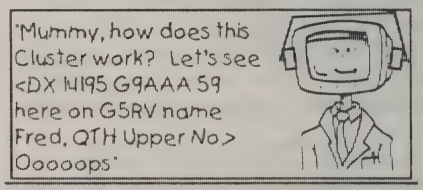
(2) Get the deviation right. If you are unsure, then REDUCE it.

(3) Get the rx level right and make sure it is undistorted.

(4) Be LOUD, be fairly deaf.

If you have problems, check with a local to see if they get in OK. Try to borrow another radio to see if things improve and double-check your levels, tx and rx frequency, power out, antenna SWR and power supply (for hum and noise). Also check for induced noise on receive from tnc or computer, and if you suffer from this, get those leads all filtered and screened.

If the problem is lack of a decent access node in your area, then get together with the locals, see what is required for a new access node. It will cost a fair bit of time and energy, plus a bit of paperwork, a lot of scrounging and maybe some fund-raising and site negotiation, but if it's planned and executed properly you'll have a useful resource for years to come.



EMAIL ADDRESSES

Several service providers permit the user to select, within certain limits, his own address while others simply issue one, usually of a numerical nature. UK amateurs who are members of the UKRS MAY obtain a "life" address in self-evident format for a once only fee of £5. (*Callsign@ukrs.org*). The user may change his service provider but by simply advising UKRS of any change the same address may be retained.

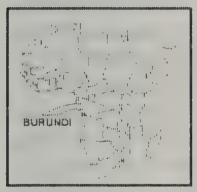
NEW MILLENIUM PROBLEMS

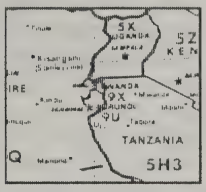
Jay, AF2C, points us to a website of vital interest to all computer users. This site explains the 1999-2000 date rollover problem that all computer owners may experience. The website has free software to correct this problem. The address is as follows:

http://www.rampages.onramp.net/~gtbecker/

LF AND RTTY FROM BURUNDI

Peter Casier ON6TT, 5X1T





The idea to activate 9U on the lowbands originated in 1995 when I was leaving for 9Q. Long time friend John-ON4UN asked to go to 9U as this was one of the countries which was not added to his list of 260 odd he had worked on topband. John has always been a great help in preparing my trips and assisting with his valuable knowledge during our past DX operations, so.... Unfortunately, in 9Q, I was pretty much glued onto my spot in Goma, so no 9U. When, at the beginning of this year, I took up a telecom assignment with the United Nations World Food Programme (the main food aid organisation of the UN), Burundi was one of the countries for which I was responsible. Each time I spoke to John, it was: "And when 9U?"- And 9U came unexpectedly. All was prepared in just a few days time and, due to the worsening security situation, I had to plan the professional part of my trip very fast. I contacted 9U5CW (EA1FH) whom I knew from the Goma days. Alfredo works in Bujumbura for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He said that I could stay with him, and that he had a large garden to put up the lowband antenna I had with me. There is a long story to this antenna, as it travelled with me to 9Q5TT, D2TT/D3T and then to VK6 ready to be shipped to Heard Island... I carry this 15m tall inverted L around in a ski bag. It has 6 telescopic tubes of 1.5m, and a top of a fibreglass fishing rod. The top-loading wire ends on a plastic egg insulating the 80 from the 160 part. The base has a multitap UNUN, and a series of capacitors, so I can shorten the antenna from below (switching between 80 CW and 75 ssb) and can match it perfectly. This antenna was originally made by John, for the 9Q trip. As a sidenote, the experiments with that antenna lead to a new design for top-loaded monoband vertical we are going to use on Heard Island.

Two days before the trip, I was proud to tell John about the plans, and made some 160m skeds with him, in case conditions were so bad I would not be able to hear his prominent signal. The day before my trip, I finally received my Ugandan call, 5X1T, so I could not resist running the piles from my base station in Kampala until 2 am. We left for Entebbe airport 4 hours later. While descending to the airstrip of Bujumbura, the capital, you get a good view on the city, which is built right at Lake Tanganyika, leaning against the hills around it. Right next to Bujumbura lays Uvira, Zaire, one of the sites with some large refugee camps.

We landed in Buja, as the locals call their capital, on Friday May 31 in the afternoon. Picked up by the people of the local WFP office, I was run through customs (no questions asked with a UN diplomatic passport). This was the first time I actually entered Burundi. Being a frequent traveller in the region, I often passed here in transit, but never left the airport. The first glance at the capital of this country which is known for its long years of ethnic trouble, was interesting. It did not seem that this country was in the middle of a civil war and ethnic clashes. The streets were tidy, the buildings were well built and maintained, the cars in good shape... How wrong first impressions can be! There is strict curfew at 9 PM, and every night the Hutu rebels descend from the hills around the city, guaranteeing frequent furious confrontations with the regular Burundi

army who are mostly Tutsis.

We had meetings in the office until 5 PM when Alfredo, 9U5CW picked me up and drove me to his home. It was good to see him again after eighteen months. Certainly one of the main characteristics of friendship made in troubled areas like these, and working in the same field, is that they are more intense than day to day friends or acquaintances. We both know that we work in high risk places, and that one day something might go wrong. When we see a friend back, it feels like 'hey we're both still alive and kicking!' Alfredo is a great guy, always well humoured and busy, of whom you may ask any favour. He had told me before my arrival that he was looking forward to do 80 and 160, two bands which had not been activated for a very long time. I actually doubt if 9U has ever been on topband before. As both he and 9U5DX, Jean-Pierre, another colleague from UNHCR, were very busy with their jobs, they had no time to put up anything decent for the lowbands.

Alfredo's house looked great in the glare of the lights in the garden. It was a Spanish like villa, with a wide open porch and patio, great layout of exotic plants and palm trees. The compound lays on the side of one of the hills, looking over the lake - and towards EU, and USA. In the back there is a 40m by 10m grass field, where Alfredo had planned to put up the vertical. His shack was very simple: a Yaesu FT900AT, one car battery, a charger, a Heilset and a CW paddle. No filters, no amplifier. The antenna is a Cushcraft R7, mounted on the roof. Alfredo had a Kam+ RTTY modem, but it was not connected to the rig, because of no connectors.

As it was already 6 PM, we decided to go out for some dinner first, before the curfew at 9 PM. During the meal, we agreed to hook up the RTTY gear first, and to do the lowband antenna tomorrow, as there was not enough light in the back garden. Also, we did not want to take the risk of too many mosquito bites, as malaria is very common in this area so close to the lake. I had taken a toolbox and spare connectors, wires and plugs with me, so we improvised a connection between the modem and the radio. After some fiddling around (which made us laugh at the idea that we were supposed to be telecoms professionals. Hi!), we got the gear to work. Some more fiddling to get everything in tune with WF1B's RTTY program (tnx Ray!), and we were in business. First CQ and DF3HD came back. And then... nothing. CQ after CQ, but zip. New frequency. CQ again. Rig heated up, decided to run 50 W max, in the cramped 10 KHz of the 20m RTTY space. One station per 10 minutes came back. We were a bit disillusioned. 4th station and 1st Stateside was N1RCT. 30 minutes and 6 stations further, we decided to call it quits.

ON6TT(r) with G4DYO in Bren's shack

Then it was time to show Alfredo the present I had for him: A CW interface cable for CT. I swear to God, he almost kissed me! He had mentioned in one of the exchanges we had via Email, that running CW with a paddle and no keyer was a pain. I knew he used CT, so the use of an interface cable was evident. I showed him the little label on the connector: "for 9U5CW from ON4UN. Price: one 160m QSO!". "Tomorrow for sure", Alfredo smiled. We ran some SSB pile-up, and asked an ON to phone John to say we would have the antenna up tomorrow. While Alfredo ran the piles on CW (with his new cable), I assembled the low

band antenna in the living room.

The next morning, a Saturday, we raised the antenna, and laid out about 20 ground radials on the grass. The SWR on 80, 75 and 160 was perfect, but when we listened on the bands, there was very high electrical interference, probably caused by one of the generators in the neighbourhood (we had no electricity for days in a row). We were worried. Fortunately, this was the first and last time we heard the interference! During the day, we ran the piles on CW and SSB. Around 13:00 GMT, I tried 20m RTTY again and, by golly, the hordes had heard me. A whole range of diddles came back to my first CQ. Now this was a challenge, I have to tell you: managing the piles with 50W, a vertical and a Kam+ with NO filters. The Kam could not decode any signal once there was more than one guy calling, and it was clear that my signal was covered by callers. I went for split, spreading the piles open. One to two stations per minute was as fast as I could go. A great opening to JA, fed the run for a long time. This felt great. Yes, 9U was wanted on diddle-mode! Once the piles died out, we went for some more CW and SSB, until 19:00. Time for lowbands to JA (JA sunrise). Numerous CQs on topband, but no reply. Could not hear any signals either. Nobody waiting for us on 80 neither. At 19:22, SP5EWY was logged as the first 80m contact. A few others followed, but nothing much. As it was too early for a decent EU run, Alfredo decided to go for a sleep, and I continued on the other bands. Around 22:00 GMT, I tried another strategy: instead of calling endlessly on 80m CW, I would look for a good signal on 75m phone, raise a pileup and then announce we would go for CW. After that, we would announce a QSY to 160. I call it the 'pick and drag' technique, which I use often to drag guys from 15 to 12 and 10m, when I know there is an opening, but nobody is listening there.... So said, so done. I8UDB was on 75m phone. I called in, and as usual, Dom gave me the frequency. Signals were good, and I ran a pile in phone. I announced that we would go to 3505, woke up Alfredo and let him run 80 CW. The callers were numerous, our reception was great, but it was clear that our low power and the high static in the northern hemisphere bothered the reception of the others. So the QSOs did not go very fast, and demanded slow CW and loads of explicit repeats.

We announced a QSY to 1823. We thought of running split from the first moment so went RX on 1835. No-one came back. This was sked time with John, ON4UN, but no signal. We looked at each other and were worried. And then, from out of the darkness, came a big signal. "O-H-1-X-X O-H-1-X-X". Hannu! No surprise that he was the first one! We worked him, and listened for some more. No-one. Decided to just call for 'up'-'up'. And sure enough, there they were. About 10 QSOs and that was it. Back to 80. More piles. Around 02:00 GMT, the first North-American came in: K1ST, shortly followed by Jack, VE1ZZ. More EU, and then more NA. We tried to drag the Americans to 160 but no go. Could only work some EU. Each 80/160m band switch, I had to run out, climb onto the roof to shorten or open the strap on the top-loading wire. The guards must have thought this was very funny! Back to 80, more NA. And then it died out. Tried 40, but no go. It was 03:00 and 80 had died. We went to bed.

Next day, the Sunday, same routine: ran piles on CW, SSB, RTTY the whole time, but propagation was real lousy. It became also clear that North America would be problematic on RTTY: no openings were good enough to guarantee a good NA run. Sked at 00:00 for ON4UN was nil. Ran some more EU on 80. Sked at 01:00 with ON4UN, was nil; more EU on 80 while stateside started dripping in. Went back to 160 half an hour before the sked at 02:00, and worked VE1ZZ, and some others. And then, with a blasting signal: daadaadaah daahdit dididididaah dididaah daadit.

ON4UN at last. John explained later that on the Saturday night, he had run the field-day station from ON6MS/P, and slept through our first two skeds on Sunday night. He got us first call, though, 599 both ways. By that time, both Alfredo and myself were tired and went to bed at 4 am local time, to get up 3 hours later to go to work. Both of us had dark circles around our eyes....

Coming back home, it was straight to the radio, mainly RTTY, then later in the night 80-160. Got up at 00 GMT for EU on low bands, and 03 GMT for NA. Still no JA in the early night. Actually, we heard nothing on the low bands until around 21 GMT, way too late for JA... And this is how it went for the next days: to work early, home around 6 PM, and straight to the radio. We made it a point to get on the bands at 03 GMT, 05 am local time, for NA, and the harvest was good for us.

On Wednesday, I left for a field trip to Ngozi, upcountry in Burundi. Quite interesting. I should say. I slept in a house, where our expatriate staff had a grenade thrown at them one evening a few months ago. The wall was still burned black, and pieces of shrapnel had blown all furniture to pieces. Luckily, no-one was hurt. The next morning, we heard the sad news that 50 km up the road, three Red Cross expatriates were killed in a cold-blooded ambush. It was a sad day for all of us relief workers in Burundi, and the whole area.

The Thursday, I flew to Gitega, another site upcountry. A wonderful area, but very 'hot'. Our food convoys in that area are carried out under heavy military escort. We slept in the office, a nice villa, 20 minutes from town. Next door, there was a convent for retired nuns. I had visited them, asking for some rope and a small mast to get our HF antenna in the office a bit higher. Nice people.

I flew back to Bujumbura and the piles and the next day, I learned that the night after I left, the convent next to our Gitega office had been attacked during the whole night, and that WFP evacuated the office. I had missed the attack by one night! The next weekend, my last one in Burundi, Alfredo and I just kept on ploughing through the piles on whatever mode we could think of. We also worked our first JA on 80: JA8DNV, shortly followed by JA4DND, JA8EOT and others. We also had some real good openings to EU on 80 and 160. No JA on 160 though. The NA harvest was good.

One night, our generator ran out of diesel, so we operated by candle light, as long as the battery of the portable computer would allow it. It sure must have looked funny to anyone who could see us: two guys and a candlestick, intensely looking at a computer screen and fiddling with a little black box, and from time to time shouting and laughing when once a again, a friend was worked on the low bands...

The Monday came, and we decided that I would leave the lowband vertical in Burundi until end of August as the demand for 80/160 was higher for 9U than for 5X, mostly cleaned out by 5X4F. Alfredo also said that during his holiday in July, he would shop for an amplifier, and buy the WF1B software and the right RTTY connectors. I hope that by now, some more people have worked him.

I bid farewell to Alfredo, flying back to my base in Kampala, Uganda. It was a great week, and I sure hope we made some guys happy. In 9 days, together, we made just over 3000 QSOs, of which 350 were RTTY, 42 on 160, and 233 on 80.
And ON4UN? He is one more 160 country richer. What is it, John? Number 268 or so? I lost count, Hi!

CU from 5X or some other countries in the region before the end of the year. And.... cu from Heard Island in Jan '97! Do not forget we still need your support via KK6EK!

Sidenote: Every year, relief workers die in

the line of duty, in Africa, in Central America, in Asia or in the Middle East, or in ex-Yugoslavia. Killed in ambushes, or by mines or victims of cold blooded attacks. I'd like to dedicate this article to those friends who left us, and especially those three ICRC delegates, killed in an ambush. Our thoughts are with you. May one day, our work be obsolete...

KERMADEC ISLANDS - ZL8RI

The story of the 1996 DXpedition

By Al Hernandez, WA3YVN

Raoul Island is the Northern most island in the Kermadec Islands Group. It is a bewitched Pacific paradise which has captured the imagination of many would-be DXpeditioners over the past twenty years. But the island's volcanic core that vents with alarming frequency has sounded a caution alarm with the New Zealand Government, severely restricting the number of permits that are granted for non-government activities on the island.

Those DXers who are fortunate enough to receive permission to land and operate from Raoul Island are faced with a three to four day journey through the stormy Pacific. The inclement weather often encountered in this region has adversely affected some recent expeditions - in one case wrecking the expeditioners' ship leaving them stranded on the island for several weeks.

The May 1996 ZL8RI DXpedition was more fortunate than some past expeditions. We ran into a ferocious storm one day after departing from Napier, New Zealand. For three days our 80-foot sailing ship the "EVOHE" rolled and heaved violently as if to remind us that we too had to pay the price. But, as if by and act of kindness to the DX fraternity, the weather began to improve twelve hours before arrival and by the time we sighted Raoul Island the seas had calmed down enough to allow landing of all equipment and personnel on schedule.

The first Zodiac went ashore at approximately 2000 UTC on 3 May. Landing and transporting all equipment to the field site two miles away took all of the first day -- it was winter there and got dark by 1730 local time.

Setting up proceeded well into the night and next day. We made the decision to wait until most of the antennas and stations were in place before starting operations. The entire team worked very efficiently without distractions and at 0400 UTC, 5 May we started operations with four complete stations on the air.

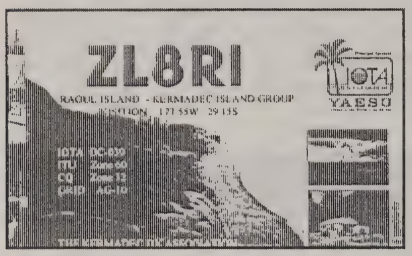
(Picture courtesy RSGB RadioCommunication)

The expedition team, consisting of Ken ZL2HU (Leader); Lee ZL2AL; Chris ZL2DXI, Ron ZL2TT; Peter ZL3GQ; Bin JA3EMU and Al WA3YVN (ZL3AH), continued to enjoy good weather and good fortunes until May 11th when a strong gale damaged the 160m antennas and the next day when one of the two diesel generators failed and could not be repaired. However the weather cleared up just in time to allow the team to pack and load all gear back on the ship for an on schedule departure May 14, 1996 at 0100 UTC.

Once again the weather remained good for one day but as the weather reports came in we knew that we better have our last meal of the trip. For the next three days the 80-foot ship seem to be dwarfed by the towering waves in the Pacific.....and after we lost one of the two engines we began to have

some doubts as to whether or not the ship was going to make it back to New Zealand under its own power. However, we did make it back under sail with a lot of engine power and a lot of wind. Take my word for it, there is nothing better than redundant propulsion systems even if it takes a little longer to get there.

We were active on all HF bands (160m-10m) and primary modes (CW, SSB and RTTY). The team made 34,000 QSOs including 1,439 on RTTY and 303 on 160m



ZL8RI - the QSL!

The feedback that I have received from the DX community indicates that ZL8RI was a successful expedition. Personally I enjoyed the company of the entire expedition team and the warm hospitality that they and their families extended me in New Zealand. All QSLs will be handled directly by Ken Holdom, ZL2HU from New Zealand. Expect cards to start appearing some time in August.

My sincere thanks go to the world-wide DX community and the many clubs, foundations, DX News letters and equip-ment manufacturers that helped make this expedition possible by providing much needed finances, equipment and expert advice to the expedition team.

It is with utmost respect that I say thank you. For me the Kermadec dream is now a reality and I can finally say:

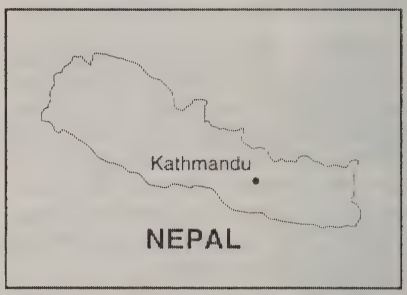
"Been there...Done that!"

NEPAL - 9N1ARB

Brad Rehm KV5V

We have been home from our trip to 9N1-land (Nepal) for a while, and I have just finished working down the pile of QSLs which was waiting for us (my XYL, Pat, KB5KVV, and myself). Here's a little report about how things went as they did.

Our first stint on the air was Monday morning/Sunday evening, 24 June in the U.S. Dick hosted the "14208 Group" until 0300z, at which time he turned the station over to me so that I could have "a few" CW contacts. I hadn't had a chance to connect or program the CK-2 keyer until that moment, because there isn't room for more than one person at a time to get at the equipment in his shack. Predictably, there were problems. The main one was stray RF, which caused the keyer to alternately add and delete dots. I blew off programming it and did the first session as best I could, manually. Got in 120 Q's, mainly with Europeans before the band shut down.



Later that morning, Rich Kingston, 9N1RHM, and his XYL met us and 'together, we set off in his 4-wheel drive vehicle, up the western rim of the Kathmandu valley to a village named Kakane. We spent the night in a cabin lent to us (through Rich's influence as a Brit) by the famous Ghurkas. It rained most of the time we were there, but Rich and I were determined to put his TS450 on the air for a few

hours from this beautiful 7000-foot location. Unfortunately, we were never able to find the 20 meter dipole he was sure he had brought, and we ended up repairing the mag-mount for an old Hustler mobile vertical. We had 40 feet of feedline and no radials, so Rich just plopped it into the rain-soaked sod. I tweaked the resonator until he said the SWR was reasonable, and we went to work. By the time we were on the air, it was nearly 10 p.m.- too late to make the window into the U.S. So after a few tentative SSB contacts, Rich turned the rig over to me for a romp on CW. I worked Europeans, central Asians, and a few U.S. stations until falling asleep at around 1 a.m.

Tuesday morning at 0100z, we were able to check into the '208 net with 9N1ARB, Denver, 4S7DA, and a few other Asian stations, but prop was poor into the U.S. Although we could hear a few Americans, no one could hear us. This was not surprising, although the Hustler was still standing tall in the mud. This was also the morning on which I had my first encounter with the dreaded Travellers' Diarrhoea. Only a hint of a problem at first, but over the next three days, it would profoundly affect my, ahem, operating habits.

Those of you who listened to my CW on Wednesday and Thursday may have noticed the rhythms of my contacts. The keyer was working properly by then, so I must have sounded more comfortable in the pileups, getting my timing in place. The other rhythm was the 15-minute cycle of my trips to the WC. Dick had breakfast served while we were operating, and the food, which was great, seemed to fuel my discomforts. Often, I left the rig to run downstairs to our rooms, and on returning found that the pileup had continued unabated. It was as if no one could tell that I'd been away. But I'm sure some of you could. My apologies.

On Tuesday afternoon, Dick and I began working on his digital gear. By that evening, with the help of Sateesh, 9N1AA, we were copying RTTY. It took a little more effort to get the transmitter going, because I wanted to wire up the RTTY keying circuit in the IC751 so that we could send true FSK. (The other PK232 users in Nepal are evidently running AFSK, so they weren't able to help with that part of the project. Also, I run a different brand of TNC and didn't see the very detailed PK232 manual until I arrived in Kathmandu.) Dick very much wanted us to get the '232 going on Pactor as well, so we spent time reading the manual and experimenting with that mode for the next day. I'm sorry to have to report that this effort kept us from doing any RTTY work until Saturday. We had time for only four contacts that evening: VK3AMK, PA0HBO, RK9CWA, and SM3BYK.

We passed the word that Sunday, our last day in Nepal, would be the day for RTTY. Unfortunately, with many stations waiting for us at 14.089, when I announced that we would go to RTTY, "technical problems" kept us from meeting them there. I didn't make it to the RTTY frequency until 0218z, when I worked W3KV and KB3X. During the latter's QSO, I had to announce that we were shutting the station down.

In retrospect, I think it would have been a good idea to have brought one of my rigs on the trip. Dick's IC751 had no filters, so when I put the receiver on 14.022, I could copy stations from 14.020 to 14.025. Turning the dial just changed the pitch of the wall of signals calling us. The '751 is also hopelessly inadequate in the IMD department. I ran with the preamp off during all of the sessions, but after years of using a '930 with IRCI filters, I found it hard to appreciate this less competent radio.

One thing which surprised me was the strength of the signals arriving from Europe and the U.S. On most days, the band opened with signals at the S5 to S7 level and

built to the point at which many were over S9. At the maximum of each day's window, 20dB over S9 signals were common. I suspect that two factors were at work here. First, sunspots are nice to have, but the bands are never completely dead when the count is low. As I heard Ed Tilton say a number of years ago, "There's no such thing as a dead band." The other factor was the technical sophistication of the stations we were listening to. I know that our signals were weak because 100 Watts to a tribander 15 feet above the roof doesn't punch a very big hole in the sky. But there are many stations out there which put 1500 Watts into monobanders at 30 meters. Their RF is clean, and they are a pleasure to work. This kind of capability doesn't appear very often in the third world. Many governments don't allow hams to run that much power, and the economies don't support it either.

It's curious that the big guns seemed to carry the little guns with them in the pileups. Often, I found myself picking up one or two S7 stations right after peeling off the guy who was barreling in at 15 over 9. The gap would be closed by another strong signal, as I moved up the band to keep everyone spread out. And yes, I did listen and work stations above 14.025. Working split, I would punch up the RIT which was set to offset the receiver into the General part of the band. There were fewer customers waiting there than I'd hoped for.

One more impression. Although I can't be sure of what my transmit frequency sounded like in the U.S., I was not aware that any lids were messing it up for the Worthy. The competition for contacts was fierce, but from our end it seemed friendly. Not a bad show.

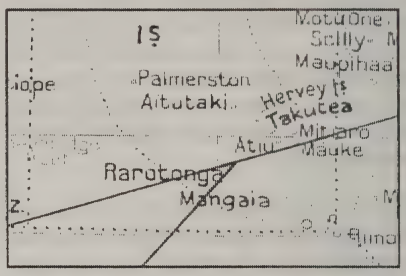
My only real regret was having to come home with only about 250 Q's. I was geared up for something on the order of 3000, but for many reasons, it was just not possible to do that this time. Next year...or some time soon, we'll go back and do it right.

ZK1AAU ON TOP BAND

By Bruce Lallathin, AA8U

I am still attempting to recover from the trip to ZK and the torture of airline travel. Here are a few observations and comments that come to mind.

I was the primary operator for most all the 160 activity as the others have little patience for working anything less than ideal high rate QSO's and less desire to stay up all night. I spent as much time on 160 as I could. Keep in mind, I was staying up all night while the XYL tried to get some rest. I bounced around between 30-40-80-160 every night. Stan operated 20M until the rate fell off then went to dinner. Usually this is when 30M was peaking and 160 grayline was in Europe. After the first couple days, I started hanging back, hitting 30M and 160M....wasn't a popular move with the XYL.



Of all the 02:30-05Z 160 operating, I only heard a very few faint signals. If anyone in EU heard me well enough to contact, I am sorry we didn't accomplish a two way QSO. I don't think I have any Europeans in the log on 160M. Let me know if you heard me and at what times so I can better prepare for the return trip and do a better job of it.

One night the QRN was terrible. Most other nights the levels were what you might expect in the USA during winter. Nice and quiet, er sort of....with fairly steady to slow QSB. We were not able to erect a beverage antenna at the resort. There just was not

enough room for it.

K3ANS and K1VWL were heard at times at an honest S-9 calling me over and over. I answered every time and sent them 5nn reports. I don't think they ever heard me. Suspect they switched the radio off in disgust..... I'll have to send them sympathy SWL cards! They get an A+ for persistence.

Several VK's and ZL's came by and let me know that they also have the same trouble with these two, "no ears", as they put it. I told them the hurricane likely was causing a lot of QRN or we would have made it both modes with ease.

Most nights I hung out on 160 until 13:30Z. that makes for a very long night. Couldn't stay awake to do it every night. The housekeeping maids soon learned that I would be upsetting their cleaning schedule routinely as I slept for a few hours most mornings after staying up all night. Didn't ever get a full night sleep...only an hour or two at a time for the whole trip. Sort of like doing CQWW M/S here, but for 9 or 10 days straight. Gosh this is a fun hobby at. Hi hi!

Speaking of both modes, I worked numerous USA stations on 160 ssb, much to my amazement. The band really got good a couple of nights. I operated at times specifically calling JA's split as promised, just about their sundown or so, and worked quite a few. There are some very fine JA operators on top band! They are so polite....sometimes to a fault. If I mis-copied a partial call it was almost impossible to get that station to repeat....I don't think they know the meaning of QRZ. hi!

The man made noise sources in the South Pacific on 40-80-160 leaves little choice operating freqs much of the time. I found I had to go to 1825 split 1909, or 1837 simplex to find a decent spot for operating. Lots of VK/ZL stations rag chew on 1840 SSB and at times I had to go join in just to let them know what I was trying to do. Usually, after a nice chat they moved off and made 1837 nice again.

Take special note of the following. Many "experienced" low band operators have told me that slow CW is the only way to go on 160. Bull crap! The stations that got through the best, during the times the band was noisy with QSB, were the ones that got all the dits and dahs between the static bursts and repeated enough to ride the QSB wave. Those others that were sending first my call (I KNOW MY CALL DAMMI!!!!, I NEED YOURS - take a hint) and then sending theirs once or twice would often send their call when the QSB faded most or all of their call.

Those that sent their call several times, some at varying speed, had a better chance of making their way into my log. I'm not known as a good CW operator, but I am getting better, almost have the whole alphabet down now. Some stations I got the suffix correct and only needed a repeat on the prefix....again, only repeat the missing part. Its comforting to be assured that the suffix is correct..... but sending it every time wastes time, especially when the QSB is slow and the prefix only pops up once or twice in a minute, often knocked out at the most critical time by a static crash!! This is just my observation. Some long time top banders are likely to differ with my views.....but then I was there.

Hey, I know I am not the operator many of you are. I must have at times sounded like a complete idiot try to work the pile-ups and the 160 puny weak stations. Please have some patience with DXpeditioners. They are not always the top notch operators just because they show up in some rare location. Even top operators that go to these places often have to cope with a wide variety of difficulties and hardships.

At this point in the sun spot cycle, this trip

was just a scouting exercise, part of the leg work needed to properly prepare for another trip in a year or two.

My antenna for 160 was an inverted-L, with traps in it for 80CW, 40, and 30M. The feedpoint was nearly 10' above ground and the radiator straight vertical to the 80m trap, then straight horizontal to the insulator. The radials, 6 at 133', and 4 at 68' were spread out and elevated to about 20', some a bit taller at the ends. It seemed to work very well on all four bands. We would not have had room to put up mono-band wire antennas there, so the compromise inverted-L was the way to go this time. As far as hearing goes, a longer radiator, with a cap at the feedpoint might have helped. Dunno. I am very spoiled at the home QTH with eight monster beverages. Sure would like to have had them on Raro!

I spent a lot of my antenna/radio budget on this trip and don't regret it at all. If you ever plan to do a similar trip for 11 days you should plan on dumping about $5. I did that plus (me and XYL). Some of the plus, was to appease the XYL, as she spent much of her time in paradise looking at the back of my head, not even able to get a word in edge-wise. Next trip we'll stay longer and I'll head to Manihiki in the N. Cooks for a week of radio only.

Please, I would much appreciate any and all comments (even negative comments if that is your assessment) you may have regarding what you saw from your end. It will help me to better prepare for the next trip and to gather some fodder for an article I am writing about the trip.

Please let me hear from you if you heard me, and I didn't get to work you. Note the time if you recall and the band conditions on your end. QSL cards are not yet printed. Give me some time. The cards will be very attractive.

TURBOLOG STATION LOGGING PROGRAM SOLD

Canberra Communications announces that it has sold all rights to TurboLog with effect from 20 June 1996. The new owner is:

Dr. Alwin Güdsen, DJ9KG,
Brinkweg 5, D-2731 Morsum,
Germany.

Alwin now provides full support from the TurboLog suite of programs, including sales, technical support, pro-gram development and bug fixing. All sales enquiries and requests for upgrades, technical support etc. should be directed to Alwin with immediate effect.

TurboLog has become the most successful station logging program in the UK but it was becoming impossible for the author to commit the time to maintain it properly. The challenge was to find someone who could take over the program and give it the attention it deserved.

Alwin has the skills and enthusiasm to ensure that the program is properly main-tained and continues to develop to meet the ever changing needs of Europe's discerning Radio Amateurs. He will be contacting all users of TurboLog over the next few weeks with his plans.

LES MINQUIERS EU-099 JULY '96

By Jim Kellaway G3RTE.

Last year I had enjoyed my first IOTA expedition when I went to Rathlin Island (EU-122) off the north coast of Northern Ireland with John G4CVC and my xyl. The weather was superb and well over 2400 QSOs were made both on SSB and CW. One of the delights of this operation was the fact that food could be bought from the small island shop and a good pint of Guinness was on tap at the pub. The island also had mains power thus as far as logistics were concerned we did not have a problem of having to take these things with us.

On my return I began to think of somewhere to go in 1996. It was whilst spending a few days down in Jersey that Les Minquiers Plateau (EU-099) or as they are more commonly known "The Minkies" crossed my mind. The last operation had been back in 1994 during the IOTA contest. I made some initial enquiries and was given various names and telephone numbers of people who might be willing to provide transport and some sort of accommodation. Luckily I found somebody who not only owned one of the cottages on the island but was also an ex ships pilot and could transport us along with all our luggage.

Unlike Rathlin, "The Minkies" are uninhabited therefore the logistics for this trip would be completely different. Generators would be required. Food and water would also have to be taken. Enough of everything to cover the duration of the expedition plus a bit extra should there be problems in getting off the island!

I had mentioned in an article about the Rathlin trip that should anybody interested in joining me for another operation to get in contact with me as soon as possible. (John G4CVC was off to Hong Kong for a year or so) The first response was from Phil G3SWH and we agreed to have a quick chat at the HF Convention. Regrettably it was very brief as I was helping to check the mountain of DXCC applications. We agreed that should dates, costs etc. concur then I would go ahead and start arranging things.

The only problem we actually had was to find a suitable date. Phil was going to operate from Chausey (EU-039) in May and would also be on holiday at the start of June. The other consideration when choosing a date would be to make sure there was no major contest on over that weekend. The last weekend in June was the only free slot and luckily we were both free.

Downtown Les Minquiers

After many letters and telephone calls the final plan began to fall into place. We would travel out on the 27th June on the overnight ferry from Weymouth to St Helier. We would then be taken to the island and start operation on the 28th June. On 1st July we would depart from the island and catch the catamaran ferry back to Weymouth in the evening.

We would set up two stations, one on SSB the other on CW. To make life easier we would use only one call for each mode. GJ3RTE/P for SSB and GJ3SWH/P for CW. Phil is a 99.9% CW man so I agreed to do all the SSB operating and leave Phil to handle the CW side of things. Everything would be duplicated as far as equipment was concerned just in case of failure. All

QSLing would be handled by Phil and we would advertise the trip as much as possible through DXNS, CDXC and Internet.

In order to cut down on costs we would take one car therefore we had to be careful not to go mad and find we could not get everything in. This meant for example sacrificing a linear which on reflection might have had a bearing on whether we could have run two stations simultaneously. The two rigs would be the Yaesu IOTA FT-900 and an FT-101ZD. For power we would use a Honda 650 for the FT-900 and a Honda 1.7KVA for the FT-101ZD. Aerials would be dipoles. We had the use of a 35 foot flagpole on the island. We would also take a 30 foot telescopic pole which could be extended to 36 foot with a bit of extra tubing. There would also be a 20M G/P which could be erected very quickly. We would use computer logging.

GJ3RTE/P SSB position

The Minquiers Plateau lie approximately 11 miles south of Jersey. At low tide the plateau covers an area greater than that of Jersey itself. However at high tide there are only a few rocks visible above the water line. As you can imagine this is an area to be avoided at all costs by sailors. The largest island is known as Maitresse Island and it is on this island that fishermen in the past have built several buildings and cottages. Some of these buildings have fallen into decay over the years whilst others have been renovated by people living on Jersey. The Harbour Master and the Customs and Excise also have buildings on the island. Access to the island is very tricky and can only be done safely at low water and only then by somebody who knows the area well. Providing the wind is not blowing from the east landing is quite easy and safe. A small bay on the east side of the island is used for landing and is nicely sheltered from the winds from all other directions.

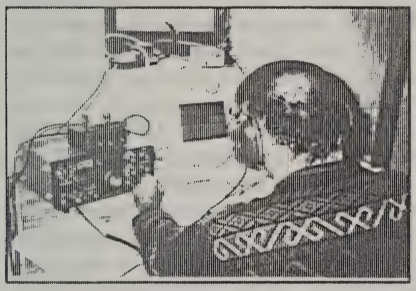
The island at high tide is roughly 300 metres long by 50 metres wide. It runs north to south and consists entirely of rock with only a few shrubs dotted about the place. The leaves of the shrubs are quite soft and were apparently used by the fishermen as toilet paper! I was also told that somebody had actually grown potatoes on the island successfully but I never found anywhere where there would have been enough soil to do this. The island is inhabited by large numbers of sea gulls and at high tide the numbers increase as they flock in from the outlying rocks.

With good visibility you can see Jersey to the north and to the south-east Chausey Island (EU-039) and beyond to the French coast.

The journey out from England to the island was uneventful and we arrived at "The Minkies" during the morning. All the gear had to be transported from the boat to the island by dinghy. This took about five trips and then all the equipment had to be carried up hill to the buildings on top of the island. We had the use of one building and one cottage. The original plan was to set up the stations in one building and use the cottage for sleeping and eating. In the end we put the SSB station in the cottage and the CW station in the Customs and Excise building. The CW station had the use of the flagpole at the northern end of the island while the SSB station started off with the 20M G/P mounted at the southern most tip of the island. (The telescopic pole would be put up

later). We discovered a concrete block with about 3 feet of tubing sticking out. It needed two people to shift it but what a find. Certainly speeded things up as far as aerial erection was concerned. Not only did the support pole for the G/P slide in nicely but also the 30 foot pole fitted a treat.

By about 1310 UTC we had both stations up and ready. A check on 20M to see if we could operate at the same time proved to be very encouraging. We were ready to start.



GJ3SWH CW position

Conditions were in general rather poor for DX though the odd opening to the Far East was welcome. Openings to the States were very short and it would have been nice to have worked more of them than we did. However there was never a shortage of stations to work us from Europe.

By the end of the operation we had made 2656 QSOs on SSB and 2590 on CW. A grand total of 5246 contacts. I must admit here that the CW station was much more flexible and all bands from 80 through to 10 were used whilst the SSB station remained on 80, 40 and 20m. The last contact on SSB was made on Sunday night and the CW station finished early on the Monday 1st July.

Unlike the outward journey things were much livelier on the way back. The weather had been far from brilliant over the weekend. Though the rain kept off there was very little sunshine. It was only on the Saturday evening that the clouds cleared for a couple of hours to give a splendid summer evening. However all the time we were on the island the winds had been increasing in strength. Luckily they were blowing from the west so at least the bay was sheltered. We were in fact picked up a bit earlier than planned from the island as the forecast was for gale force winds in the area. Once we got out of the shelter of the bay the sea became very rough and the trip back was pretty exciting. We grabbed hold of anything we could for the whole journey. After about an hour and a half of being thrown about we finally entered the sheltered waters of St Helier harbour.

After unloading everything from the boat and then loading up the car we still had six gallons of unused lead free petrol to dispose of. Eventually we found somebody who actually wanted it! So having filled up his car we were now ready for a welcome shower at the Marine Club. This was quickly followed by a meal and a trip around the island before boarding the ferry back to the mainland.

I would like to thank the following. Neville G3NUG and Yaesu for the loan of the IOTA FT-900AT. Frank Lawrence and Maurice for transporting us to and from the island and for the use of the cottage. The Customs and Excise for the use of their building.

A breakdown of band and DXCC statistics for each operator is as follows:

GJ3RTE/P

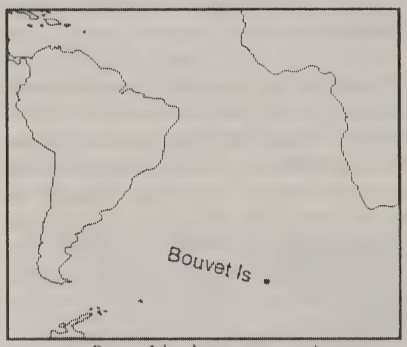
20m 1753, 40m 745, 80m 158. Total DXCC countries worked=96. Total unique callsigns logged=2474

GJ3SWH/P

10m 6, 12m 51, 15m 41, 17m 190, 20m 120, 30m 465, 40m 581, 80m 36. Total DXCC countries worked=68. Total unique callsigns logged=2100.

PRESS RELEASE - BOUVET ISLAND

The *South Sandwich Island DX Group* is pleased to release the following information related to their next adventure to the bottom of the world. As many of you know, the *SSIDXG* recently put their planned expedition to Heard Island on hold after another group announced changed plans to activate Heard Island. Since that time, *SSIDXG* has been working on landing permission for another extremely rare Antarctic island.



Bouvet Island - pretty remote!

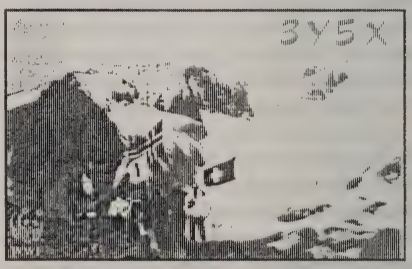
The anticipated landing date is during December, 1997 and the operation is planned as a two week stay on the island. As with our past two DXpeditions (VP8SSI in 19922, and 3Y0PI in 1994), the *SSIDXG* will operate all bands and all modes including satellite.

Our plans are to again have four stations operational around the clock during time on the island. The team will consist of at least 10 operators made up of both seasoned DXpeditioners from the previous VP8SSI and 3Y0PI operations, plus other skilled operators new to our expeditions. At this point, committed members of the expedition team are: WA4JQS, XE1L, W6KMB, ZS1FJ, W7KNT, W5VSZ, HB9AHL, and AH9B. It is anticipated that this multinational team will be supplemented by other members of *SSIDXG*.

Bouvet Island (Bouvetøy) is a Norwegian territory and island located in the sub-Antarctic area. Bouvetøy is located at 54 degrees, 24 minutes South, and 3 degrees, 25 minutes East. Formerly known as Bouvet Island, Bouvetøy is the southern-most island of the mid-Atlantic ridge and consists of a single volcanic cone with a wide indented crater and attaining a maximum elevation of 2,560 feet at Olaf Peak at the island's centre. The area of the island is approximately 19 1/3 square miles.

Bouvetøy was placed under Norwegian sovereignty by a Royal Norwegian Decree on January 23, 1928. The island is uninhabited, though attempts have been made to establish a meteor-ological station. As one might imagine, the weather at this location on the 50th latitude is inhospitable at best. Bouvetøy lies approximately 1,370 miles southwest of Cape Agulhas on the continent of South Africa, and 1,020 miles Southeast of Gough Island. Bouvetøy is clearly one of the most isolated pieces of land on the earth's surface.

The goal of this expedition to Bouvetøy is common to the goal of all *SSIDXG* expeditions: To work each population area of the world as evenly as possible so that all DX chasers from all countries will have an equivalent chance of working the expedition. It is anticipated that all QSL confirmations and all financial contributions to support this *SSIDXG* DXpedition will be handled by AA6BB.



Last Bouvet op - Dec '89-Jan '90

QRZ CONTEST *Ken Chandler, G0ORH*

Welcome to the Contest section of CDXC Newsletter. I hope you all had a good and enjoyable time in the various contests during July - August, , especially the IOTA contest, which I expect kept every one on the ball. I had asked for raw scores for the IOTA contest on the cluster network, those that have responded to my request I have included later in this section. Thanks all. I don't think any station managed to work 3k of QSOs, but a few came very close indeed to that magic figure.

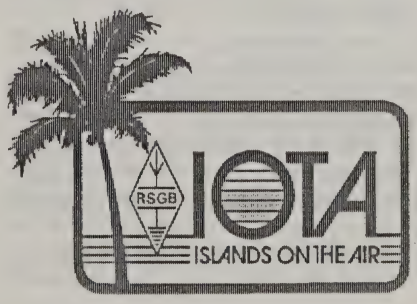
This years IOTA Contest was undoubtedly another overwhelm-ingly successful event The contester's who took part have expressed their appreciation to those that supported them by means of QSOs in the log! Congratulations also to the IOTA Island stations themselves for turning out in their hundreds to support the contest. Those that applied for, and were issued with the special contest callsigns should have had a significant advantage over the conventional normal calls which would normally be aired, it will be very interesting to see from the various reports on how contest groups etc., fared using the new single suffix callsign. Don't forget to make use of your new contest call, because if you don't use it, the RSGB HFCC will put back in the hat for another group to bid for, so be warned.

Don't forget to submit a log if you took part in the IOTA contest, or indeed any contest that you made QSOs in. Just because your log may be on the small side, it has still some value to the organisers. Although computer disc's are favoured, your paper log will do, so send it in ASAP.

On behalf of the CDXC contesting fraternity, I must mention Alan, G3PMR's retirement as editor of the magazine, indeed, 3 years is a long time on constant duty, for it's a 365 days a year job planning for the next newsletter etc. I hope this now means that we will perhaps hear the call of G3PMR more frequently in the various contests. Alan has stayed on the committee as Vice-Chairman, and quite rightly so, especially with his wealth of experience. Happy retirement Alan!!. The new CDXC news-letter editor needs no introduction Bren. If I've got my history correct Bren, G4DYO, was the first editor of the CDXC newsletter so he's come full circle again. Bren has a few ideas up his sleeve for the mag, with more contest orientated articles included for the membership.

I did not attend the ARM this year due to work commitments, but I volunteered to carry on as Contest Co-ordinator for another year. If however, someone feels that he would like to take it on, then I'm more than willing to stand aside for new blood and ideas, etc.

As a special note: I will be using a special call from the 1/10/96 - 7/10/96 that of GB25MDP. It's for the Ministry of Defence Police. I will be operating from Wethersfield in Essex on all bands both SSB - CW. It will also be aired again from 1/11/96 - 14/11/96 from my home QTH. I will also operate this call in the IPA Contest first weekend in November 96. A full colour QSL card will be available from myself G0ORH, QTHR, or via the buro.



CONTEST RULES

RSGB 21/28MHz SSB CONTEST 1996

1). The General Rules: RSGB HF contest (Sept 96 contest supplement) apply. Entrants are reminded that stations using packet or other spotting facilities must enter as multi-operator stations.
2). Eligible entrants: Overseas(inc EI). UK.
3). When: 0700 - 1900UTC Sunday 6 October 1996.
4). Sections:

(a) UK,
(b) Overseas,
(c) UK Receiving (SWL)
(d) Overseas Receiving (SWL)

Single operator and multioperator entries accepted in transmitting sections.
5). Frequencies / Mode: 21150 - 21350KHz and 28450 - 29000KHz, SSB only.
6). Contest Exchange: RST and serial number, commencing with 001. UK stations must also send their county code.
7). Scoring:

(a) UK stations work only overseas, 3 points per QSO. Multipliers as per General rules.
(b) Overseas stations work only UK stations, 3 points per QSO.

Multipliers: 1 for each UK county worked on each band. NOTE: the same station may be contacted on both bands for QSO points and multipliers. Total Score: The number of QSO points on each band are added together. The total number of multipliers on each band are added together. The final score is the total QSO points multiplied by the total multipliers.
8). Logs: Separate logs are required for each band. Overseas entrants may use the stationary as used by their National Society. UK entrants see General rules.
9). Address for logs: RSGB HF Contests Committee, C/O G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, SURREY CR7 7AF, England.
10). Closing Date: UK entrants, Postmarked by 1st of November 1996. Overseas entrants, 1st December 1996.
11). Awards:

Section (a): The Whitworth Trophy to the UK single-op winner. The Powditch Trophy Transmitting Trophy to the leading single-op entry on the 28MHz band. Certificates of merit to the 2nd & 3rd placed entrants overall on each band.

Section (b): Certificates of merit to the three leading entrants. Subject to the decision of the RSGB HF contests Committee (HFCC), additional certificates may be awarded to the leading entrants from each continent / country.

Multioperator entries: Certificates of merit to the leading groups in each section.

21/28MHz SSB CONTEST (SWL)

Rules are for the transmitting section except where specified below. Holders of transmitting licences for frequencies above 30MHz may enter the receiving section.
7. Scoring: UK SWLs log only. Overseas stations in contact with UK stations participating in the contest. Overseas SWLs logs only UK stations in contact with overseas stations participating in the contest. Scoring and multipliers as for the transmitting section.
8. Logs: Columns to be headed: time UTC; callsign of station heard; report / serial number sent by that station; County code sent by that station (if applicable); callsign of station being worked; multiplier (if new); points claimed.

NOTE: In the column headed "station being worked" the same callsign may only appear once in every three contacts except when the logged station counts as a new multiplier.
11. Awards: (At the discretion of HFCC, dependant on the level of support.) The # Trophy to the leading UK entrant. The Powditch Receiving Trophy to the leading UK entrant on 28MHz. Certificates of merit to the leading three entrants in each section, and leader from each overseas country.

21/28MHz CW CONTEST 1996

1. The General Rules: As for 21/28 SSB Contest.
2. Eligible Entrants: (a) UK, (b) Overseas, (c) UK receiving, (d) Overseas Receiving. Single or Multioperator entries accepted in the transmitting section.
3. When: 0700 - 1900UTC, Sunday 20 October 96.
4. Sections: (a) UK, (b) Overseas, (c) UK QRP, (d) Overseas QRP, (e) UK Receiving. (f) Overseas Receiving. QRP stations may use 10W RF OUTPUT or less.
5. Frequency / Mode: 21 and 28MHz bands, CW only. Entrants are requested not to operate in the sub-bands 21.075 - 21.125MHz.
6. Contest Exchange: RST and Serial Nr, commencing 001. UK stations must also send their county code ie, 599 001 BRK.
7. Scoring:
(a) UK stations work only overseas stations; 3 points per QSO. Multipliers are as per General rules.
(b) Overseas stations: work only UK stations; 3 points per QSO. Multipliers, 1 for each UK county worked. The final score is the total of QSO points times the number of multipliers worked.
8. Logs: Overseas entrants may use the stationary provided by their National Society. UK entrants see General Rules.
9. Address for Logs: RSGB HF Contests Committee, c/o G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey. CR7 7AF, England.
10. Closing Date for Logs: UK entrants postmarked by 18 November 96; overseas entrants, must be delivered by 16 December 96.
11. Awards: T E Wilson, G6VQ, Trophy to UK single-op overall winner. Certificate of merit to leaders and runners-up in each section, Overall and on each band; also to the highest placed multi-op entries from UK and overseas. Additional certificates may be awarded (at the discretion of the HF contests committee, HFCC.) To the leading stations from each overseas continent / country.

CQ WW DX CONTEST (PHONE) 1996.

1. When: 0000Z - 26 October - 2400Z - 27 October 96.
2. Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m only.
3. Entry Classes: Single operator assisted / unassisted, all bands / single bands, High / low power / QRP; Multioperator: Single transmitter; Multioperator, Multitransmitter. QRP is 5 W or less.
Multisingle: Only one transmitter and one band permitted during a 10 - minute period. Exception:one-and only one-other band may be used during the same 10-minute period if - the station worked is a new multiplier.
Stations found in violation of the 10-minute rule will be reclassified a multi-multi.
Multi-multi stations are permitted one signal per band only. All transmitters must be within a 500-metre-diameter circle or within the limits of the Licensee's address property, which ever is the greater.
4. Exchange: Exchange signal reports (RST) and CQ Zone number, UK is 14. A station in a different zone or country than indicated by its call must sign /P.
5. Points: QSO's between stations on different continents 3 points. QSO's between stations on the same continent, but in different countries, 1 point. Exception, QSO's between North America stations in different countries 2 points. All QSO's with your own country count for Multiplier credit, NOT QSO points.
6. Multipliers: 1 multiplier for each different CQ zone worked per band (max 40 per band). 1 multiplier for each different country worked per band (DXCC and WAE lists). Maritime mobiles only count for zone multipliers.
7. Scoring: Multiply QSO points from all bands operated by multipliers (zones plus countries) from all bands for final score.
8. Awards: Single band logs eligible for single-band awards only. Single-ops must operate at least 12hrs (multi-ops 24hrs) to be eligible for any awards.
9. Team competition: Club competition. A team consists of 5 single operators. A person

can only be on 1 team per mode. Team doesn't affect club competition. A list of team members must be received at CQ HQ before the contest begins.
10. Dupe sheets: Are required for any band with more than 200 QSO's made.
11. Entry forms are available from the sponsor for an SASE, all entrants are encouraged to send for a set. Computer disc entries are accepted. Phone logs must be postmarked by 1 December 96 to, CQ Magazine, 76 N Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801. USA.

INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION CW / SSB CONTEST 96

The aim of this contest, organised by the German IPARC section, is to facilitate operators to gather points for different IPARC Awards and trophies.
When: CW 02 November 96, Time 06:00 - 10:00 & 14:00 - 18:00 UTC.
When: SSB 03 November 96, Time 06:00 - 10:00 & 14:00 - 18:00 UTC.
NOTE: The above are separate Contests.
Freq: CW: 3500-3560; 7000-7040; 14000-1460; 21000-21100; 28000-28100 Khz.
Freq: SSB: 3700-3800; 7040-7100; 14125-14300; 21150-21300; 28200-28600 Khz.
Note: You must stay on a band at least 15 minutes before you may QSY to another band.
Classes: Open to all.

A) Single operator/all bands (No assistance)
B) Multi op / ONE transceiver only.
C) Multi-Multi.
D) SWL (Only bonafide SWL are eligible).

Winners: The first 3 stations in each class.
Call: "CQ IPA Contest". RS/T + serial Nr from 001. IPARC members with send IPA after there serial Nr. U.S.A IPARC members will send IPA + their state initial. Stations may be worked once on each band.
Multipliers: IPARC members X DXCC countries or U.S states.
Points: Non IPARC stations = 1 point.
IPARC stations = 5 points.
For each band; the points (QSO) are multiplied by the summary of the multipliers. Then all the sum obtained for each band are added.
Last date for Log entries is 31 December 96
Results posted February 97.
Send logs to: DF6VX, Dietmar Czirr, Schenkenorfstr. 69 a, D-32427 Minden, Germany.

RSGB 1.8MHz CW CONTEST 1996

1. Date / Times: 2100 Saturday 16/ to 0100GMT Sunday 17 November 1996. Third full weekend.
2. Exchange: RST plus serial number commencing 001 plus county code.
3. Frequency: 1820 - 1870KHz
4. Sections: Single operator entries only.
(a) British Isles. (b) Overseas including EI.
5. Scoring: Overseas stations work only British Isles stations. Section (a) 3 points per contact plus a bonus of 5 points for the first contact with each British Isles County worked and the first contact with each Country (outside the British Isles) worked. Section (b) 3 points per contact plus a bonus of 5 points for the first contact with each British Isles County worked.
6. Awards: (a) 2nd 1.8MHz CW contest - The Victor Desmond Trophy to the leading UK station (b)1st 1.8MHz CW contest The Somerset Trophy to the leading UK station. (c) Certificates of merit to the first three entrants in each section of each event. (d) The Maitland Trophy to the Scottish entrant with the highest aggregate number of points in the 1st and 2nd events.

KICK THE TIRES AND LIGHT THE FIRES... WE'RE LOOKING FOR MULTIPLIERS

CQ WW PHONE CONTEST - 1995

Roger Western, G3SXW

(International Adviser to WW Contest Committee).

Here is advance notification of the final scores from the WW SSB contest - included are the top ten listings plus all the UK scores. At the moment this is all the numbers that I have so don't ask me for any others!

TOP SCORES WORLD

SINGLE OP

HIGH POWER

All Band

EA8AH	10,999,592
TI1C	7,898,252
3V8BB	7,508,820
8R1K	7,394,750
SU2MT	6,805,372
XM3EJ	6,590,384
K1AR	6,147,537
S50A	6,012,303
GI0KOW	5,911,024
YT6A	5,508,048

28 MHz

LU6ETB	638,388
EA8ZS	449,460
ZP5MAL	442,981
ZV5A	431,232
LU1MA	364,060
LU2DW/A	338,663

21 MHz

ZW5B	2,157,610
PQ0MM	1,642,575
ZS6EZ	1,552,250
9R1A	1,135,818
JA5FDJ	1,045,128
IY1LEC	1,040,910

14 MHz

ZD8Z	2,356,065
IG9R	2,076,068
4X6TT	1,557,951
OK1RI	1,359,640
CE3F	1,325,016
VP2E	1,315,327

7 MHz

IG9A	1,168,855
9M8R	1,091,835
PY0FM	862,368
S50C	729,520
9Y4VU	635,328
LZ5W	586,656

3.7 MHz

IG9T	816,959
HC8A	441,084
I8UDB	233,562
S57AW	219,535
DL8OH	209,469
LX1NO	194,775

1.8 MHz

IG9W	137,020
EA8EA	105,786
OY9JD	98,824
EK0W	75,806
SV8CS	60,258
IR4T	58,764

LOW POWER

All Band

WP4U	3,547,934
US1E	3,186,888
OD5NJ	2,691,360
5X4F	1,926,114
EA7CEZ	1,777,656
L37N	1,609,578
RA0FU	1,584,410
ON5GQ	1,442,708
TR8IG	1,162,620
KR2Q	1,158,288

28 MHz

ZY3Z	575,246
LU8HSO	341,857
LU3HIP	244,055
LU3HWE	222,040
EA8IN	209,326
LU3HYS	182,868

21 MHz

HC1OT	1,155,505
UA4LCQ	703,812
GI4SNA	415,359
CX6VM	328,654
II6I	316,798
YU7CF	312,602

14 MHz

IR4XX	658,615
Z30M	646,218
LU5FCI	528,504
JR4PMX/I	321,222
VA3JK	300,105
S52UT	266,328

7 MHz

RV0AR	456,284
YV5AMH	200,871
IR4R	180,006
YV5NCK	78,912
SV2AEL	71,246
RA3WA	68,801

3.7 MHz

T99W	99,528
DL4FMA	82,616
S57J	75,225
PA0RCT	66,082
S51IX	63,771
OK2PJW	62,790

1.8 MHz

S53X	39,960
HA8EK	37,128
OZ3SK	30,177
IT9ZGY	27,750
S57DX	21,840
DL9SXX	17,877

QRP

All band

LY35BA	421,201
EA1GT	377,568
AA2U	370,804
W0KEA	323,190
JA6GCE	283,284
N1AFC	281,112
UA4SKW	258,531
UT1WA	239,313
JA6UBK	227,916
EA3FHT	204,228

ASSISTED

All Band

AA2DU	3,145,262
EA8AFJ	3,089,350
DJ2YA	2,669,139
DL6ET	2,619,378
IR8A	2,584,581
N3RR	2,522,730
N3AD	2,497,105
K3WW	2,330,389
DK9DA	2,293,248
PY2EX	2,275,232

MULTI-OP SINGLE TX

IQ4A	11,986,918
ED9EA	9,707,190
6D2X	9,689,400
LZ9A	9,327,936
8P9Z	9,213,928
FG5BG	9,147,840

MULTI-OP MULTI-TX

PJ9B	33,279,744
V26B	22,384,428
G0KPW	17,257,440
9A1A	16,362,936
OT5A	15,120,045
HG73DX	14,997,749

UNITED KINGDOM

SINGLE OP HP *=Low Power

ENGLAND

G3NAS	A	2,682,629	2294	123	398
G3TTJ	"	682,650	986	84	249
G0VSN	"	469,244	797	72	220
G0AEV	28	71,136	509	22	74
G0SDX	21	305,672	894	36	116
G3LZQ	"	281,260	802	33	107
G4WTD	"	210,256	649	36	100
G0LRX	"	149,060	582	27	89
G0DBE	14	364,500	1138	35	115
G3TVU/M	"	15,900	111	17	43
G3WGN	3.7	54,852	521	15	69
G3SNN	1.8	13,496	186	6	48

G4IFB	"	4,074	104	6	36
*G4KIV	A	774,836	1289	85	303
*G3VAO	"	76,704	341	39	102
*G6QQ	"	50,439	241	30	99
*G4NXG/M	"	23,861	114	34	73
*G0NIF	"	7,980	76	5	38
*G4OTY	"	224	16	5	9
*G3YOG	21	8,342	108	11	32
ISLE OF MAN					
*GD4GWQ	14	31,453	316	16	55
JERSEY					
*GJ3XZE	14	27,650	201	16	63
NORTHERN IRELAND					
GI0KOW	A	5,911,024	4492	122	471
GI0UJG	14	990,090	2387	40	150
*GI0SAP	A	657,570	1215	53	177
*GI0OUM	"	54,483	277	30	97
*GI4SNA	21	415,359	1433	33	138
SCOTLAND					
GM0EGI	A	548,494	1093	65	213
GM3BCL	"	509,340	865	64	196
GM4FDM	14	1,026,840	2512	40	132
*GM0FET	A	314,496	745	64	170
*GM0IIO	14	30,885	292	16	55
WALES					
GW4BLE	A	4,335,168	3243	119	417

QRP

ENGLAND					
G0KRL"		30,080	194	30	98

ASSISTED

ENGLAND					
G4OJH	A	1,427,830	1533	101	353
WALES					
GW0ARK	14	402,248	1302	5	19

MULTI-OP SINGLE TX

ENGLAND					
G3OZF		4,053,033	3071	134	523
GB2AA		3,908,797	3026	136	507
GB6AR		2,434,425	2254	110	415
G0/AA4V		1,019,746	1675	75	263
GB8WW		772,564	1339	82	276
G4WPD		729,200	992	100	300
G3FJE		487,838	702	86	291
GX0WMR		307,326	728	58	204
G4WWG		193,459	464	52	151
G0WAT/P		171,954	527	54	179
G0NKL		114,924	396	47	110
GUERNSEY					
GU3HFN		1,163,134	1669	73	258
WALES					
GW8GT		4,657,804	3608	130	484
GW3CSA		713,804	1246	81	290

MULTI-OP MULTI-TX

ENGLAND					
G0KPW		17,257,440	9553	178	738
SCOTLAND					
GM4DMZ		4,615,497	4330	128	511

5V5A IN NOVEMBER

By Roger Western, G3SXW

The VooDoo Contest Group expects to re-appear from West Africa in this year's CQ World-Wide DX CW Contest, this time signing 5V5A. After wins in the multi-multi section from 9G5AA in 1994 and from TY5A in 1995 they hope to make it three in a row.

Ten operators will install six stations and 17 antennas on a hotel roof in Lome, the capital of Togo. En route they will collect equipment stored in Abidjan, Ivory Coast and Accra, Ghana in a hired bus which will make multiple border crossings, hopefully without incident.

If you have access to the World-Wide Web the full story is available on:

http://www.getnet.com/~kf7ay/5v5a.html

This will include regular "Flash" news updates of the team's progress.
Our target is over 11,000 QSOs during the 48 hours. QSLs will be handled by GM4AGL. CU in the contest.

There are two types of amateur:

Those who are DXers...

And those who wish they were!

WRTC 1996

By Don Beattie, G3OZF

Early in 1996, Dave Lawley, G4BUO asked for volunteers to make up the two-person UK team entry for the WRTC 1996 event. WRTC was first held in 1990 in Seattle, pitching a number of two-person teams operating from similar stations on the HF bands in a contest-style operation. In 1990 winners were K1DG and K1AR, and they were out to retain their position as leading operators in the 1996 event.

For 1996, WRTC was planned to coincide with the IARU contest, with WRTC stations competing for the first 18 hours of the IARU event. Scoring rules were set to favour CW operation in WRTC, hence eliminating as much as possible any bias in favour of native English speaking contestants. Stations were provided in the San Francisco bay area, all with roughly similar specifications - tri-band yagi at 30-50 feet and a 40 metre dipole.

In the end, it was Andrew (GI0NWG) and I who comprised the UK entry. Roger, G3SXW, was asked to be a judge at the event, and Dave, G4BUO, felt it would not be right for him to represent the UK twice in succession. Andrew and I decided to take our own HF equipment (the option was to use whatever the host station possessed). We both took our FT1000MPs and found many other people with MPs at the event. Andrew was lucky enough to get to San Francisco five days before the event started on the Saturday. I could not arrive until the Thursday evening, which was by no means optimal.

On arrival, I immediately joined the competitors (all of whom had arrived by then) in a long 2 hour-plus drive to dinner at Martinez (courtesy of Shell Oil). It was a great evening of Mexican food, but we all returned to the Motel which was "base camp" for WRTC at about 23.00 - or 07.00 UK time, which I was still adjusted to ! Not a good start to being fit for the contest on the Saturday.

Many of the world's DXers and contesters were at WRTC, and the Shell dinner was a great chance to meet them. John Sluymer, VE3EJ and Lee Sawkins VE7CC (who have both dominated the RSGB Commonwealth Contest) were there. So was John, ON4UN, and Harry, RA3AUU. Jose, CT1BOH, the 9A1A gang, Chris, ZS6EZ and many many others were there. The US representation read like the top listing of major contest results, past and present. W0UN, W7RM, AI6V (of P40V), Wayne N7NG, CDXC members Fred Laun K3ZO and Dick Dievendorff AA6MC (G0MFO), N2NT, KJ4VH, N6TV and so on.

Organisation of the logistics was near faultless. Dick, AA6MC had the unenviable task of herding the competitors around the Bay area to be in the right place at the right time. As far as I know we didn't lose anyone, and the programme ran to time. Great job, Dick.

On the Friday, the tension mounted. We drew lots to learn the location of "our" station. We drew WB6JJJ at San Jose. Others drew stations from the West coast at Half Moon Bay to the North in the Napa Valley and to the East. Most, however, were within a half hour drive of "base camp". We were not to be told the call of our station until 30 minutes before the contest. We drove to WB6JJJ and met with Bill and his wife, who were to be our hosts for the weekend. Bill had a house in the suburbs of San Jose, with a Cushcraft A3 at 40 ft and a 40 metre inverted-vee dipole at about 30 feet. We helped him clear the existing Icom equipment out of the shack and set up the FT1000MPs with ICE filters in the second receiver line. As I unpacked my MP, I found to my horror that the memory select knob had been knocked in transit (I had carried it all the way in a bag, and wrapped in bubble-wrap). When I tried to bend it back, the shaft snapped off. No memory control. But that is

also the knob that selects the various software options in the MP. So careful use of long-nosed pliers allowed us to set the EDSP filters and also to turn off the second receiver, as required in the WRTC rules. We also found that the 40 metre extension element on Bill's A3 interacted with the 40 metre dipole to give wild changes in SWR as the beam was rotated. We were not allowed to use the rotary dipole, and so had to adjust the wire dipole resonance so that the MP ATU would handle the SWR across 300 kHz of 40 metres. In the end all was ready by about 20.00 local time. A quick meal and to bed.

Up at 04.00 local and a quick freshen-up before action. We had the call K6M. Great call for both phone and CW. 05.00 local and it was 40 metre CW to Japan. From the moment the contest started it was clear that this was not going to be slow. Activity was frenetic, with many of the stateside stations rising to the challenge to see who could work all 54 WRTC stations (W6A-Z, K6A-Z plus AH3B and AH3C) in the shortest time. The record, it is claimed, was 48 minutes!

After 40 metres it was all a blur. 20, 15 and 10 all provided great conditions, and it was just like operating in the sunspot maximum, except that most of the stations were US. Unfortunately we had S9 noise level on 10 metres when beaming East, which lost us a few points, I suspect. Europe was tough - we only made a few QSOs, with G4BUO, GW4BLE, GI0KOW providing much needed multipliers on 20m from the British Isles - thanks guys. Mainland European stations were there too, but not in quantity. In the end we had nearly 2000 QSOs in 18 hours of operating. This belies the fact that for part of the contest it slowed a little, compensated for by the rate meter being at 200+ QSOs per hour for long periods. We had a few operational problems, 'though. After a while the rotator indicator packed up. For a while we had to guess where the beam was pointing, until our host rigged his video camera up to a monitor in the shack. This was fine until dark !

Our "Judge" who observed us throughout the contest was Dick Frey, K4UX, who was just great. He was supportive but very fair. The WRTC organisers used slow-running video recorders to audio tape all 18 hours of each station, in case of dispute. Penalties for a busted call sign were severe, and the observers were on the look out for this. Judges commented afterwards that they noticed a direct correlation between the judge picking up his pen and the operators asking the station being worked to confirm the callsign !

At the end of the contest, Dick, AA6MC collected us from Bill's station and took us back to base camp. In the car was Dave Sumner K1ZZ, of the ARRL, who was a great guy to speak with. When we got to the motel, it was clear that we had not done as well as we had hoped. We were badly short of multipliers and somewhat short of QSOs. Our CW:Phone mix was slightly more biased towards CW than some, but not by far. A rumour spread that the UK team had made all its QSOs on CW - oh that it were true. With CW scoring twice the phone points, we would have been well-placed. We collapsed into bed - there was little beer drinking that evening.

Sunday was a different matter. Whilst the judges were running the computerised logs through the checking system, the competitors were round the pool, with pizzas (courtesy W6OAT) and beer (courtesy Tied House micro-brewery, owned by another K6 who helped sponsor the event). At lunchtime they announced that there was to be an examination session for the US amateur licence. I hadn't planned to do this, but for $6 it seemed silly not to. I got a licence (OK only a general class, but who cares ?) which included passing the 20 wpm code test. The examiner told me I got one question wrong in the code test. On challenging him on this,

he discovered that his marking sheet was wrong. Embarrassment all round - but I still got the ticket.

In the evening there was a splendid dinner at Stanford University where the prizes were awarded. VE7CC and VE7NTT for the most accurate log, KR0Y and K1TO as overall winners. Our position does not really bear talking about - in the bottom quarter of the table - not a position I'm used to ! The top stations did a great job - some of the entries had over 2500 QSOs. The results table suggests that the playing field was not exactly level - of the top 10 stations, nine were from the US. This suggests that propagation knowledge from the US is more than helpful. Also, in the top listings were a number for TH6 and TH7 or KT34 antennas at 50 feet. Our A3 was not quite a match for these. But we were beaten, fair and square.

The evening dinner was a great success with some witty (but splendidly short) speeches, and then a return en-masse to the pool area at base camp, where the Japanese teams had laid on hospitality (more beer and pizzas). Bad news was that the Monday wind-down event was to start with coaches at 07.00. Some got little sleep that night.

The Monday dawned grey and dull. Coaches left, as threatened, at 07.00 for San Francisco Harbour and the Jetfoil to Vallejo and the Yaesu Napa Valley wine tour. On the boat, I had a long chat with Fred, K3ZO, and heard the stories of his extensive antenna farm. No wonder he is such a signal in contests over here. Thence back onto coaches for a drive up the Napa Valley, the fabled wine producing area of Northern California. By this time, the sun was out and it was another hot Californian day. We were offered lots of wine to sample and at one winery, a teach-in on tasting. After three wineries, including an excellent al-fresco lunch, eighty or so DXers slept their way back to base camp at the end of the day.

The final event of the week was the Slovenian hospitality evening. A lot more beer, pizzas and rather stronger liquor were available, together with Slovenian Contest Club T-shirts all round. As I had to be up early the following day, I crashed out at 22.30.

On the Tuesday, a phone call to my wife, who called Martin Lynch to locate the spare part for the MP. None in the UK, said Martin, but he was able to give me the part number (vital information - thanks Martin). A quick call to Yaesu US on the Tuesday had the part at my hotel in New Jersy by the following evening. Work then required me to visit some of my company's locations in California, Wisconsin and New Jersey, culminating in a flight back to the UK on the Friday. It was sad flying over the site of the TWA 747 air crash of two days earlier and seeing the search boats looking for wreckage. It was a little quiet on the plane for a while.

Saturday morning, and I was back at home, and within two hours the MP was repaired and working fine. Quite a relief, as was needed for IOTA in 9H1 a week later.

WRTC was a great experience. The comradeship and the opportunity to talk DX for a few days under the Californian sun was a delightful combination. The organ-isers deserve an enormous vote of thanks for the smooth running of the event. The logistics and funding problems were immense, and yet they won through.

Next WRTC is planned for 2000 (the millennium games). Venue has yet to be decided. Anyone interested in putting a plan together for running it in the UK ? Let me know.

BIG antennas, HIGH in the SKY, are better than small ones, LOW!

IOTA CONTEST 1996

Neville, G3NUG, reports that at least the following island groups were active during the contest, which was generally reckoned to be better than previous ones.

AF 3, 4, 5, 8, 13, 14, 16, 21, 23, 24, 31, 49, 60. Total 13
AS 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 30, 53, 54, 62, 76, 77, 78, 80, 94, 95, 102. Total 23
EU 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 40, 42, 43, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, 55, 57, 58, 60, 61, 64, 65, 66, 70, 76, 77, 78, 80, 84, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 95, 96, 98, 101, 103, 107, 109, 111, 114, 115, 116, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 128, 129, 131, 133, 135, 136, 138, 140, 145, 146, 150, 151, 154, 155. Total 89
NA 2, 10, 15, 16, 18, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27 ,29 ,31 ,34 ,36 ,38, 41, 46, 48, 52, 54, 55, 57, 58, 67, 69, 75, 76, 83, 89, 91, 96, 97, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 112, 114, 125, 126, 134, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 144, 147, 148, 168. Total 59
OC 1, 5, 6, 19, 21, 30, 34, 36, 45, 86, 97, 133, 134, 146. Total 14
SA 2, 3, 6, 11 ,26, 29, 46, 68. Total 8

GRAND TOTAL 206

IOTA CONTEST RAW SCORES

Call	QSOs	Pts	Mults	Ref	Call	QSOs	Pts	Mults	Ref
OH1MDR/P	2775	5.7m		EU-096 M/op	G6W	1600	2.48m		EU-005 S/op
M6T	2522	5.6m	336	EU-005 M/op	M6N	1580	2.4m	205	EU-120 M/op
9H0A	2595	5.57m	288	EU-023 M/op	GM5VG/P	2200	2.25m		EU-008 M/op
MW6Z	2365	5.21m	306	EU-124 M/op	GX4WSM/P	1041	551160	90	EU-005 S/op
GW6J	2408	4.3m	273	EU-124 M/op	G3SWH	419	391365	117	EU-005 S/op
EJ1D	1750	3.85m	293	EU-121 M/op	GM4IZD/P	757	305089	59	EU-008 S/op
EI7M	1810	3.175m	250	EU-115 M/op	M6Q	500	216510	70	EU-005 S/op
GU6D	2158	2.5m	180	EU-114 M/op	M0ACW/P	399	181771		EU-005 M/op

INSULA MAGNA EUCXXI

(The Sordid Tale of EJ1D 1996)

By Bob Whelan G3PJT.

After last years solo effort from Isle de Re, EU032, I was invited to join the EJ1D contest team for their multi op effort from Bere Island, (rhymes with bare, not beer), EU121. This invitation was solely on the understanding that I improved their CW score. Seemed like a fair deal to me.

The team was lead by Paul EI2CA, and included Keith, Paul's son, Dan EI5HD, Tony, EI6EW Jim EI3GE, Aidan EI8CE, Paul EI5DI, Rosemary and myself. Keith took the old style RAE in the previous week, rang up the examiner to find the result, and was told he had passed. Things happen quickly in EI when international issues are at stake.

We flew from Stansted to Cork on Ryanair, cheaper than Virgin but very basic. They accepted the 1.5M box of aluminium tubes and case of wires without batting an eyelid. They must be getting used to us at Stansted. We spent a few days in Bantry Bay before the contest and went down to Dursey Island at the end of the Beara Peninsula, went round the Ring of Kerry and the Lakes of Killarney, amazing scenery. I was offered an island of my very own for L115k, probably a bargain if I thought I could have got a unique EU a strange hissing noise coming from the number.

Ireland is so clean, after all it is washed down every morning! But the weather was warm and very pleasant, don't believe all the tales you hear. The other members of the team came down from Dublin on Thursday. About halfway they started to hear trailer. This was a leak on the helium cylinder which was used to fill the Helikite which we going to use to hold up the 80m vertical. Not a good start. Murphy, Ireland's top Olympic hope, competes at home as well as away !

To get to Bere Island you take a ferry trip. This was advertised in the tourist brochures as being a roll-on roll-off ferry. But don't get the wrong idea - it only takes four cars with a squeeze, and to make things more interesting you have to reverse on. Reversing the trailer with poles, beams, and all the other kit down the ramp and onto the ferry was some trick. Especially after a few Guinnesses!

Last year the group operated, field day style, from one of the four Martello towers on the island but this year had permission to use the canteen of the Army camp at the east end of the island, real luxury. It also meant that we had a broad flat area to set up antennas on. My contribution was a portable 4 element phased array for 40 which worked very well to the west in the evening with a lot of compliments on the signal.

Consternation spread amongst the team with the announcement that the RSGB HFCC intended to conduct random breath checks of IOTA contesters rather than boring old station inspections. Just a rumour, but we had to retire to the 'hotel' for infusions of 'Genius' to recover. The opening hours on the island coincide with 24 hours operation of course. And what great hospitality , to be greeted at our B&B with a glass of Irish Whiskey and the choice for dinner of fresh caught lobster or salmon. Gourmet meals are a feature of my IOTA contests.

This was also the first time I had operated from a POW camp, these days used for territorial army, a bit basic I would say and a lot of funny noises very late a night, real spooky. As Tony said the UK need never fear Ireland if that was the standard of Irish Army recruit. Actually the Irish had solved the recruitment problem by getting the girls to join. They were a lot more frightening than the guys.

On Friday the entire Irish navy arrived so we enjoyed the protection of a small frigate The missed photo opportunity was me chasing the cows off my radials with a big stick. The personality who dominated the weekend was of course Michelle Smith. My attention was drawn repeatedly to the relative standing of G and EI in the Olympic Medals table. The EIs wondered if her 'performance enhancement would extend to a third gold. It did. And whilst we are on that subject, how long will it be before HFCC tests certain stations for performance enhancing substances. Judging by the manic calling and attitude of certain stations it might be too late to save them.

On Sunday morning we had a very pleasant surprise because many of the islanders came to visit the station. We didn't understand the reason for this until we heard that the parish priest, Father Tim himself - EJ3CB, the only permanent EJ call, had announced our activity from the pulpit in his Sunday sermon. He said that this was a very important for the island, putting Bere Island, on the international map.

Our main operating instructions thus came from the pulpit on high, "Go forth and multiply!" We ended up with the best multiplier score ever, nearly 300 an improvement of 50% over 1995. Due to the presence of foreigners on the team !

Thinking about this afterwards I feel that IOTA stations should take every opportunity like this to present our good image to the public. In US Field Day you get extra points for bona fide efforts to inform the public as part of your contest effort.

Transport on the island takes place in a fleet of the most decrepit cars you have ever seen. No MOT, no tax, no insurance, it's a good job they only drive at 20 mph because of the state of the roads. I couldn't find out where they bought petrol either. Corrosion was very bad, I observed electrolytic corrosion on my portable 4 square after just 48 hours exposure to the moist, warm, salt laden Bere air.

And Insula Magna? That's one of the original names for Bere Island. I suggested we send EUCXXI but a well known Irish logging programme couldn't handle it. Paul bet me an upgrade of Super Duper to a fiver that I couldn't find a reference to Insula Magna. Well he was right that it wasn't in the IOTA Directory but it was in the tourist book. Bet won, SD v8.08 looks very good!

Bere Island has quite a history. The area suf-

fered badly in the famines of the mid 1800s. Many migrated to US, Canada and Australia. Bere is one of the safest deep water anchorages on the South West coast of EI, it sheltered the Dreadnoughts last century, it was used by the British Army to intern Irish during the early 20th, was ceded by Churchill to Ireland at the start of WWII. In the gales of 1990 over a hundred vessels sheltered in the deep water between the island and the shore.

And thanks from all the team to Rosemary for entering into the spirit of the event, passing the multiplier notes, untangling the radials and generally keeping us all in good humour. Claimed score circa(!) 3.8M

IOTA96 FROM EU-010

By Ivan Davies, G3IZD

During the period covering IOTA95 I was on holiday in Crete and whilst the Ouzo and the yoghurt and all the other Greek goodies were most enjoyable it was frustrating to be listening with the Sony to all the IOTA contesters having such a ball.

And so it was resolved, next year in Jeru....., no, next year on an island but with a rig. The big question of course being which island, the visit to Crete was carried out at 1 days notice from an offer on the teletext but this is no way to plan even the most basic DXpedition (I could not have erected an antenna at the Crete accommodation).

The IOTA contest taking place in July removes most of the more exotic(?) EU islands from my list due to their tendency to be overcrowded and more expensive. As this was a solo effort and not part of a holiday then NA, SA, AS, AF and OC were essentially excluded, similarly AN was contemplated with due brevity. So, whats left? Why, UK of course, so lets dig deeper into the list for some ideas.

There are, of course, several UK groups of sufficient rarity value to make them most attractive. However teams were already slated to activate St. Tudwals, the Summer Isles and the inner Hebrides and the Shiants and Monachs seemed to me to require the services of a local contact in order to obtain permission and to organise travel.

This essentially left the Outer Hebrides EU-010 which, in fact, were readily accessible and included an element of civilisation, like roads and fresh water, so off to my friendly local travel agent to obtain the Calmac brochure such that I may decide which island actually to visit. Examination provided two essential items of information namely that 1). I would have to drive to Scotland to catch any of the available ferries, and 2). It might have been cheaper to go to French Frigate Shoals. (Seriously, have you examined a Calmac fares tariff?).

Further reading decided me in favour of a weekend break to Lochmaddy from Uig on Skye which provided an outward sailing on Friday morning and return on Monday morning. A telephone call confirmed my sailing reservations and a further call a nights stay in the Uig hotel as I didn't fancy driving 400 miles to catch the 0930 sailing!

Lochmaddy gave road access to North Uist, Benbecula and South Uist and as I intended to operate from a tent would surely provide many suitable sites, although a formal camping site was not likely to be suitable, in fact examination of the relevant OS map identified but one such site.

So, on with the planning, no problem really, with the exception of the caravan it will essentially be the same station as that employed for NFD, being TS850, EP925 PSU, MM3 keyer and paddle even using the caravan folding table, all to be embarked in the Terrano that had served me so well during my mini-exped to Mull two years ago. This time however I had resolved to conduct the contest on CW only and decided to take a

laptop and use SD on-line. Unfortunately this needs AC mains so I would now need to take along the generator as well. Being fondly hopeful of some DX I also decided to use my newly acquired and so far unused Butternut which would give me all bands without the ATU, which we used on NFD with the doublet. However when I rang the editor of DX News Sheet to advise him of my activities, Chris wisely suggested to me that I would need some-thing to provide high angle on 80 metres into mainland UK for all the lovely 15 pointers on EU-005, so the smaller of my telescopic masts plus a doublet with 300 ohm ribbon went along too together with the associated KW107 ATU. (I have a smaller ATU but it has no switching facility).

So, all that remains is to wait and keep reading DXNS to see what lovely IOTAs are going to be activated. Then, Oh dear! Someone else is going to EU10 but, no problem, Ken G0PCA and his team are going to the caravan site on Benbecula so' provided I'm not too close them, all will be well. Furthermore, they propose to operate mainly SSB so we will not affect each other's "rarity factor".

I left home at 0500 on the Thursday for the 400 mile drive to Uig and made excellent timing, but the rain started as I went through Glencoe and remained intermittent until my arrival at Uig via the new Skye bridge. (Five pounds twenty pence SINGLE - come back Calmac!) A comfortable night's stay in the hotel was marred by the rain through which was the occasional view of the surrounding hills. A sure sign, the locals advised me, of impending rain!

The WX during the 1hr 50 min ferry ride was windy but, with the rain decreasing all the time, the hills of EU10 could soon be seen and I was off the ship and driving off along the road (road? Well, actually, it was quite well surfaced, albeit narrow, with ample passing places). I had arranged to see Ken, G0PCA, and team in order to find out his exact location and to "suss" out any likely spots for me on the way. We soon hooked up on 2 metres and he talked me in for a chat and to examine the set-up, including a very nice big doublet. Enough of this, I needed to get at least my accom-modation set for the night so off to visit the smallish island of Grimsay (to give it the English spelling as most signposts are in the Gaelic), the map of which I had examined and found to have possibilities.

Most of the likely spots had overhead power lines which, noting the closeness of the sea and the resulting salt, could have been noisy, so were excluded. Eventually, coming to the end of a newly asphalted cul-de-sac, I found a lovely flattish green field contain-ing, of all things, an old fashioned enamelled bath-tub, and more importantly with a tap emerging from the grass. Close by were some men employed on renovating a house who told me where to find the owner of the croft, for such was the field.He was soon tracked down and was extremely friendly, saying that I could camp as long as I liked and even use the bath if I so wished!

So, back the 500 yards to the field and start to organise the station. The Terrano had been "combat loaded", thus the first out was the bog standard ridge tent - soon erected, with its door north, as the quite brisk wind was from the south. The WX by now was quite sunny and quite a sweat was worked up whilst erecting the rest - table, chair, rig computer, etc., and the telescopic mast and the Butternut, which tuned up, using the MFJ 259, perfectly at the CW ends of the bands. The ground beneath was lovely, rich, damp peat which allowed the Butternut base and the mast guy pegs to be easily inserted, and even more importantly gave a beautiful ground plane for the 8 26ft radials which I had laid out.
Start up the generator, flash up the rig (less computer) with the keyer and check the SWR on 20: still good, and there's Jan,

G0IVZ, in Cornwall, with a big signal. A quick call and after a chat its "whoops we're in a pile-up" situation - and very nice too, with some very encouraging reports. After 50 mins or so its time to bow out. II still have the domestics to check out, including refreshment, as I've had none since breakfast.

After checking out the feeding arrangements, and not forgetting the sleeping gear as well, I tried out the bands again. As I said, it was to be CW only for the contest but lets see if there is any interest in the island on SSB? So a short call on 14264 and we're back into a pile-up again. Nothing dramatic DX-wise but very strong signals from G, which bodes well for the contest. After a busy hour it''s time to check 10mHz in order to see if the Butternut is as good as I had hoped. It seems to be OK and another pile-up - and soon its time to send "NW UP", a totally new experience for me and one I've long looked forward to. Some times I hear "CL": so much for my resolve to send my call every QSO. Now to check out 40. Yes, that's fine, including some USA - not easy from home. Soon it's time to hit the sack: as I've said before "we old G3's need our zees".

So it's into the sack at around 2330 local time, but I guess I'm still a little hyped up, the tent is flapping in the wind, there is some intermittent rain and I'm not as warm as I would like to be, despite two pairs of trousers and three thick shirts inside the sleeping bag. So very little, if any, sleep - more of this later.

Its up with the lark and all the other noisy birds in the morning and after a wash and shave its into a hearty breakfast, a delight which seldom obtains. "A wash and shave?" one asks. Well, the previous evening, whilst I was erecting the aerials, a man came into the field and asked me if I was anything to do with the other crowd at Liniclate. He turned out to be a retired Army officer and owner of the nearby house which was being modified and extended. He immediately offered me the use of his extra bathroom and kitchen, which his household was not presently using and which would be available to me around the clock! I certainly availed myself of the bathroom and kettle, although continuing my culinary activities with my own equipment.

Lets have a look at 20 SSB again; into a pile-up once more and 160 QSOs in less than an hour including KL7 and VK9NS. I've been chasing Norfolk Island for years and now I work him I'm in GM so it's no good for my IOTA!!

A trip over to Benbecula to see the other team, a little shopping at the NAAFI (open to all) and back to the site to set up the computer and generally get ready for the fray. The computer checks out fine; I'm using Super-Duper and SDI and there's no computer sharsh to speak of, so all's well.

I prepare some instant food and a flask or two and as, 1200Z beeps, it's off we go on 20, hunt and peck for two or three then - Ah there's a spot - so an hour or so of "running" as the call appears to be much sought after. So it continued with occasional band changes. However, whenever I checked 80, there appeared to be no CW stations at all and no replies to CQs.

When considering the expedition I had originally thought to do single op limited i.e. 12 hours, but on reflection it seemed silly to use only half the available contest time, noting the effort involved, so 24 hours it was to be. However, after about ten hours or so, the lack of sleep the night before made itself apparent and eventually I had to climb once more into the sack. I guess I must have been warmer as I didn't wake until 5 hours later (thanks dawn chorus). So, quick breakfast and off again. Plenty of "running" on 40, 20 and 15, but once again no discernible activity on 80. Where were all these 15 pointers I had counted on? However, there

are still plenty to "run" on the others, although the multiplier tally is not impressive. Throughout the contest the weather had been superb, dry and sunny and operating with the tent open was very pleasant. I would have been quite happy to have soldiered on when 1200 arrived. Many did, it seemed, but soon all was quiet and it was time to take stock,

The final raw scores were thus:-

Band	10	15	20	40	80	TOTAL
Qs	2	194	435	125	1	757
Pts	7	1454	2829	879	2	5171
Mults	1	15	29	13	1	59

Inserted into last year's scores this would have put me in third position in the CW single operator category, but this year I'm sure there will be many more entrants in this category so no fond hopes of greatness!

So its time to put the station away. The weather is still fine so no great trouble, although the "combat loading" requirement was less important, apart from the tent patently being last and affording protection to the now highly regarded Butternut. This done, its down to Benbecula for a chat with G(M)3TPP who had arrived in his thatched holiday cottage for some WABing This visit included a most welcome hot shower. This was followed by another visit to the G(M)0PCA team, which incidentally include three licensed YLs. A good natter, couple of beers (first alc on the trip) and back to the site for a celebratory last meal. The weather remained excellent and I had a significantly better night's sleep, not rising until 0800 the following morning as the ferry didn't sail until 1150 and I only had the tent and Butternut to stow away.

I found myself first in the ferry queue and, with some time to wait, had a few /M QSOs with the WAB boys until the ship arrived and I was parked in pole position for arrival at Uig. I had a pleasant lunch on board followed by a walk around the upper deck with the binoculars (as an ex-Submariner this was a pleasure which had seldom been thus enjoyed. Hi!) The weather continued fine and sunny and the views of the Hebrides and Skye were very clear indeed. First off at the other end and I decide to roar off as fast as possible in order to keep clear of the lorries and other slow moving traffic on the road to the Skye bridge. Yes, it was another £5.20. I had had thoughts of stopping off again on the way home but the WX and driving was so good that I hacked on and arrived home at 2230 after driving through Fort William, Glencoe, Rannoch Moor and down Loch Lomond, then via Erskine Bridge, M8, M74, M6 and along the A590.

Shall I do it again? Probably, with one or two variations namely: a) take a blanket or two, b) apply the anti mozzy earlier before the wind drops, c) take far less food; I only ate 20% of that I took, d) do not be seduced by the "run", but seek the multipliers, e) try and stay awake, f) take the same gear - it all worked superbly.

I hope all this might be of interest and thanks to all who gave me some points. See you next year

THE BEST LAID PLANS...

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

Or how I got sucked in to the 1996 IOTA Contest.

My plan for the 1996 IOTA Contest, as in other years, had two main objectives:

- To have lots of fun
- To work as many all time new ones as I could.

A read of DXNS showed that, with luck, I should be able to make ten all time new island references, so number two objective looked achievable, and number one objective is pretty easy to achieve!

My plan *did not* include staying on for most

of the contest, and submitting an entry. However, things didn't quite work out like that...!

I started on 10m with a few CQ calls, but got no response, so moved to 20m SSB, where my first QSO was with 9H0A, - I can't remember whether it was Don or Steve operating. I then found a clear spot and called CQ - I managed to keep the frequency for about an hour, and netted about 90 QSOs.

By this time, I was having a real ball, but still no thoughts of changing the objectives. Then, the first disaster struck - I wasn't using the CAT system, and I had forgotten to change bands in the logging software when I moved from 10m to 20m, so I had 90 QSOs wrongly logged on 10m! I made a note to fix this later, and went looking for islands - I made lots of EU islands, but no new ones. Unfortunately, I didn't bother making a note of the island references.

I was a few hours in to the contest, not really having pushed hard for QSOs, when I decided that I was having such fun that I might as well stay on for the duration, and maybe submit an entry. Fortunately, the social calendar and XYL permitted this! However, not having pre-planned this, I immediately faced a number of problems:

- I didn't have any quick means of tracking multipliers on a band by band basis. I wasn't using (and don't have a current version of) Paul, EI5DI's SDI software. I was logging with SHACKLOG, which can track different IOTA references, but is not designed to do this in a contest style operation.
- I had no pre-planned strategy of which bands I'd operate on when.
- I hadn't been tracking multipliers so far.
- I had no efficient LF band antennas.
- Although I hadn't been connected to PacketCluster, I'd been monitoring the spots, so I'd have to enter the multi-operator single transmitter section - a real disadvantage! (My PacketCluster connectivity is so poor at the moment that I recently modified SHACKLOG to optionally filter all incoming packet data except DX spots. This has proved a real boon, as I now can see all the spots without being connected).

Oh well, in spite of all these problems, I'll press on anyway, I thought. I carried on, periodically stopping to extract from SHACKLOG a list of island references worked. One of the things I had most difficulty with (not being an experienced contester) was knowing how long to keep running a frequency before breaking off to search and pounce multipliers, so I'm sure I got that wrong.

I operated all bands from 80m-10m, both modes, except on 80m, where I only made CW QSOs. I carried on without a break until 0400 BST Sunday morning, when things got a bit quiet - I was surprised not to hear much 160m activity at the times I listened, hoping for the odd island QSO for a multiplier - in fact I heard nothing on 160m except an OZ calling CQ DX in the early hours. Probably the "lack" of activity was down to my antenna.

I crashed out on the settee in the lounge, with no alarm clock, and slept like a log. Fortunately for me, my XYL Beryl woke early (06:00) and came down to wake me up - she's a brick! The two hour's sleep was enough to revive me, and back I went to the rig. The operating format was much as before - run a frequency for a while; print a list of island references worked, go search and pounce for a while, and so on.

An added problem I face, which most people don't, is that I live next door to another active CDXC member, Mike G4PFF! Mike's antennas are very close to mine. I didn't want to spoil Mike's fun (although he wasn't very active), so whenever I heard

Mike, I usually QSY'd to another band, or to the CW end of the same band.

The set up was a Yaesu FT-990 with FL7000 running 400w. Antennas were a Cushcraft A3S at about 11m, and one of Martin Lynch's Italian Jobs - a multiband trapped dipole. The latter works surprisingly well on 40m, and I've worked lots of DX on it. In the contest I worked everything I could hear, with little effort. It has rather a high Q on 80m, which makes search and pounce rather difficult, with continual re-tuning needed, and is not very effective for DX working, so most of my 80m QSOs were European. Having read the review of the Heil Proset in RadCom, I'd just purchased a Proset 4 plus foot switch. This was everything claimed for it in the review - I wore the headset for over 21 hours of operating, and scarcely knew it was there. It was difficult to judge the effectiveness of the insert - I'm assuming the review was correct when it referred to it as a pile-up buster!

Was it fun? YES! Would I do it again? YOU BET! - next year I will plan to do it properly, and will have the right tools in place. I haven't told Beryl yet, but I think I may have caught the contesting bug!

Statistics

Not having SDI, I didn't have any automated means of scoring. However, I found that after exporting my log from SHACKLOG to Excel, it took just a few minutes to set up the spreadsheet to do the scoring for me. Here are the vital statistics:

QSOs:	768
Dupes:	4
QSO Points:	5634
Multipliers:	168
Total points:	946,512

Note that these are raw, unchecked scoress. I worked 90 different island references; I note from DXNS that there were around 130 reported as being active, so I missed quite a lot. I didn't hear any ZL or VK stations, nor, as usual, did I hear any Antarctic stations.

Another recent modification to SHACKLOG has been to make an audible alert when a DX spot comes up on Packet-Cluster. I did this a few weeks ago, when I was expecting a new island, but wanted to sit out in the garden in the sun! This facility has proved a boon, and did so in the contest. I worked thirteen all time new ones, plus four previously worked but never confirmed. Now starts the process of getting the cards in! Unlike last year, when all my new ones were in North America, this year they were spread. Here are the new ones:

AF060, AS102, EU092, EU107, NA038, NA076, NA111, NA112, NA127, NA134, NA142, NA148, SA029.

Previously worked but not confirmed: AS054, EU066, EU120, NA114. This takes my total to 423 worked.

See you next year!

IOTA96 - MALTA - 9H0A

By Don Beattie, G3OZF

After two years of efforts to activate an island for IOTA, Steve, G4JVG and I considered where we should go for IOTA 1996. The contest was to take place at the very minimum of the sunspot cycle, and this suggested a southern Europe location. We had the same thought for 1995, but chose ZC4, which in the event proved to be just too far from the centre of the action, with a shortage of multipliers on most bands. But our efforts in 1994 (from the Minkies, EU099) and in 1995 from ZC4 had taught us one very important lesson. It is essential, if a "fly in - operate - fly out" strategy is to be used, to have some local help.

It did not take too long to reduce the choice of islands to a very short list. A return to EU099, or a Mediterranean island, of which Corsica, Sardinia, the Balearics and Malta seemed to be best positioned. EU099 was

discarded for two reasons. Firstly the level of activity in the IOTA contest is rising rapidly, and to gain a leading position will need big antennas. The logistics problems of doing this on EU099, whilst not insurmountable, have the potential to take the edge off the enjoyment of a weekend's contesting. Secondly Jim, G3RTE, and Phil, G3SWH, were due to visit EU099 in June 1996, and it didn't seem appropriate to reactivate it so soon thereafter.

The lack of local knowledge or contacts in the Balearics, Corsica and Sardinia seemed to exclude these, although we knew of a good site in Corsica which would have been available. It would have meant driving via Marseilles with a lot of equipment, and thence via the Bastia Ferry. This did not seem the optimum. One real possibility remained - Malta. I had often worked Jeff, 9H1EL on the bands (we were early RTTY'ers together in the '70s), and had admired both his signal and his enthusiasm for contests.

An exchange of letters and phone calls and it was all set up. Jeff could not have been more helpful, and this to people he had never met in person. We agreed the station requirements in advance, and Jeff undertook to do necessary preparatory work on his impressive antenna systems prior to the contest. He also helped greatly with the licensing for the operation, and secured the special call 9H0A for the IOTA contest - and subsequent contests.

A few weeks before the contest, Jeff was in the UK and he and Mavis came to visit us at Stone. We had a great weekend - Steve and Eva joined us, and it was clear early on that we all thought the same way about contests - they are there to be won ! This was an encouraging start.
Steve and I with our XYLs took a small villa for the week in Malta, but unfortunately could not arrange one to be available earlier than the Friday (the day before the contest). This was nearly to be the undoing of all our plans - read on.

The day came for our departure. We were to take my FT1000MP (Jeff has one also) and a second linear. At the last moment, Steve's linear failed, and had to be left behind. We took Heil headsets, Dunestar bandpass filters, a laptop, a Butternut HF6 and all the bits needed to operate after the contest from our villa. I had also arranged for a license to be available for use at our villa after the contest, and Jeff had even paid for the license in advance. However, the licence authorities will not issue a license without inspecting the equipment to be used. And so we set out on our journey with papers from the Prime Minister's office saying a license would be issued on arrival, and a copy of a letter to the Comptroller of Customs from the PM's office confirming this.

The flight to Malta was uneventful, which did nothing to prepare us for arrival. After waiting about 40 minutes for the luggage, it finally arrived. On approaching customs, an alert customs officer spotted the Butternut box. "What's this ?" he asked. On explaining its use, we were directed to a side office and asked to wait. The customs officers could not have been more helpful - it was very clear, you can only import a transmitter if you have a licence. "But I can't get a license until the radio people inspect the transmitter". "That is not my problem - different department" came the reply. Stalemate. Under normal circumstances, matters would have been resolved by a phone call to the PM's office. But this was Friday afternoon - everything had closed for the weekend. It was clear we were going to have to dig in for a long negotiation.

As luck would have it, Jeff was outside the customs hall, and I persuaded the immigration people to let him in. He knew many people around Malta, and after a half hour or so and numerous telephone calls, we had a solution. Everyone was pleased that a mini-international incident had been avoided, and

there were smiles all round. The solution ? The customs people would take photo copies of my documentation, and that would allow them to provide an import permit. In all it took about two hours - with visions of IOTA 96 not happening at all for us.

A quick drive to our villa, and back to Rabat for dinner with Jeff and Mavis and a planning session. The following day, we were all ready to go by 0915 Z - the main station and the spotting station set up, no interaction between the two (great filters, the Dunestars) and packet access (albeit a little erratic) via Sicily and the Italian packet network. The only other slight drawback was the heat. It was a steady 34 degrees C in Jeff's shack - and that was before we turned the linears on.

Jeff's antennas for HF are magnificent. They are on two towers on the roof of his house, which itself is at the highest spot in the island. The view from the roof is spectacular, and the sound from the beams when they connect to a receiver is awesome. A long-boom five element for 10 metres, four element for 15 and three element for 20, together with dipoles for 40 and 80 suggested that this was going to be quite a contest. But we still had only one linear - Jeff's SB200. We had not been able to make alternative arrangements, and had not thought to tell Jeff of the last minute problem with Steve's amplifier. But then the Maltese amateur community came to the rescue. Just as the contest started, a second SB200, with brand new 572B's installed, appeared almost out of nowhere. The owner shook hands with me (I was operating at the time) and disappeared. Needless to say, it worked flawlessly.

We worked with two operators on, and one off, throughout the contest. The spotting station was invaluable, of course. What a pity that checking and entering the multipliers from the spotting station is a little time-consuming with Super Duper. The first few were quite an effort until we got the routine right. Oh how it would be nice if Paul could network SD !

The rate ticked along at around 120 an hour for the contest, with short interruptions for the multipliers. Conditions were great - lots of good runs, and the right propagation to the right places at the right times (i.e. according to our propagation computer predictions). The only technical problem came from using the SB200's with the FT1000MP. The linear keying relay in the MP is just not up to the job of keying the 110 volts of the linear, with the result that the relay on the run station failed after a few hours, sticking in the "on" position (i.e. linear keyed on). We swapped MPs and put a buffer relay in the circuit of the replacement MP. It took 30 minutes or so, but fixed the problem. We had to rig up a dpdst switch to operate the spotting station for the rest of the contest. A little frustrating, but no real hassle. The FT1000MPs again proved to be the finest contest radio I have ever used. The complete lack of stress when using the MP is a pleasure. Although it is a rather bulky radio to carry on the plane (mine was just back from WRTC in San Francisco, so is getting well travelled) the performance justifies the effort. But for my forthcoming week in Cyprus, I think the FT890, in its shoulder bag, will fill the bill.

We had a great 10 metre opening on the Sunday morning, which made all the difference to the QSO total - it was non-stop for several hours, and we had to abandon CW on 10 metres because the wall of stations calling caused the QSO rate to drop too much. It was just like a real DXpedition - the quantity of callers for 9H0A was unbelievable.
At the end of the contest we unwound with a cold beer or two and reflected. It was hard to see how things could have gone a lot better. Yes, of course it would have been nice if the linear relay problem had not occurred and we probably lost 50 or so QSOs from that, but in all it was most satisfactory. The result

will all hinge on the multiplier totals - there are several high QSO rate entries - but as yet (I am writing this whilst still in Malta) no indication of multipliers.

The rest of the week in Malta was relaxing and hot. We started by getting our licence for the operation from the villa. After a little confusion in the Prime Minister's office (we had been told we had been allocated 9H3DX) we obtained the call 9H3WQ ! However, after our tussle with the customs, we were pleased to have any call at all.

We tried to see a little of the island, and also went to Gozo, a truly beautiful island, where we met up with Felix, DL8OBC, and his colleagues, who were operating as 9H3UD in the contest. They have a great site on the West of Gozo. with a beam and dipoles high up above the cliffs. We also said hello to Charlie, 9H4CM, who is the engineer of one of the Gozo ferries.

At our villa we struck lucky. It was high up near the top of a ridge in the North-West of Malta, with a clear view out to sea to the North. We installed the Butternut against the low wall around the pool and, as usual, it performed very well. Good QSO runs to Europe using our new call were easy to initiate in the evenings, although during the day the bands were unusually quiet. This just went to emphasise how impressively Jeff's antennas work - there was never any suggestion of daytime doldrums during the contest.

It is now time to pack up and return to the UK. We just have the challenge of getting the FT1000MP out through customs. Soon IOTA '96 will be but a memory. But what a memory. Once again, the support team on the ground - in this case Jeff, Mavis and the unknown 9H1 who lent his linear to complete strangers - proved invaluable. But it was Jeff and Mavis who made it really possible. Our sincere thanks to them - we hope life has now returned to normal !

UFO's AND IOTA CONTEST

Ken Chandler, G0ORH (M6N)

The Isle of Wight, IOTA Ref No: EU-120 not exactly an exotic location for the RSGB IOTA International Contest this year, but the aim is to compete or at least put on a station for this International event.

I persuaded Newbury Radio Club to participate this year, our first entry in this contest as a club effort. The team was, Ken G0ORH, Dave G3KLH, Norman G3NVO, Richard G3ZGC, and Justin G4TSH. So preparations began on Thursday 25 July 96, Justin and myself assembled the required equipment needed for the trip. The clubs mobile trailer mounted tower (P60) was prepared, and loaded with the 3-el tri-bander beam (TB3), plus other various bits and pieces. It's amazing just what can be loaded if stacked properly. My 4x4 vehicle was loaded to the roof with 2 computers, one laptop the other a main unit with a mini colour screen, TS850's ICOM, FL2100 linear amp, Tent, cooking equipment (you've got to eat !), operating table, 80m and 40m loops, and all the other gear which just might come in handy. We set off late on Thursday afternoon for the ferry port of Southampton, ready for the short crossing to the Island. We arrived an hour or so before our allotted time for boarding, but after some negotiating with the port officials, and some funny looks at the tower, we finally drove on to the ferry early which was great as this meant that I could drive at a leisurely pace across the island to Ventnor (Shanklin Downs) in daylight.

The crossing was uneventful. No sea sickness for me unlike the journey to the Scillies last year for my EU-011 operations !. We disembarked from the Red Falcon ferry. It took an hour to traverse the narrow and sometimes potholed roads to our operating position high above Ventnor. The road up to Boniface Downs was so steep I honestly didn't think we could make it. With the 4x4

and low ratio gearing my worries were unfounded as we sailed up the sometimes greater than 1 in 4 steep road. If we meet anything coming down, that would be a different matter !. Help. Once on top we passed the CAA compound with it's magnificent wooden built tower adorned with various antenna's. Enough to say the views were breathtaking with a setting sun. To get to the site, we had to drive across country for about 2 miles on rough track and through National Trust property. Fortunately, I had pass keys to the various locked gates.

En route, we passed a few new forest ponies which were quite friendly and tame-ish. Our site, over looking Shanklin, was by the Trig point at 773ft asl, and shared with 40 or so cows, and enormous cowpats everywhere. We reached our position without incident. We didn't reckon on cows for company and sharing our site, they can cause quite severe damage by their infectious rubbing movements in a vain bid to rid themselves of vermin etc. After 30 minutes of Shooing (yes they got the message) we put the tent up, and after a few beers hit the sack. Next day Friday 26 July, we got up at 0730. The cattle had left us alone during the night which was a blessing. Richard G3ZGC, arrived on site so we eagerly started constructing the station under the watchful eye's of the cows.

The beam was assembled and offered to the mast, Drama, the nuts had worked loose en route, lost on some dusty road forever !. But all's not lost as I deliberately put extra exhaust clamps in the tool box, just in case. The tower went up complete with beam, the 80m & 40m loops stretched out and tethered, table erected, Transceivers, amp, computers, etc., all assembled and connected together. All performed as expected, all except the 2m packet cluster access which crashed. We never did get it to work properly from this QTH. Early on Friday afternoon we QSOed with Tony 9M6TL, alias G0OPB on holiday. We worked him on 20m CW. Tony had expected to work most bands 20.15 10m during the contest, but had to restrict himself to 20m only due to problems !. As I could not access the cluster to put Tony on, I tried desperately to contact various members of CDXC G3NUG, G3RVM plus a few more on my mobile phone but no answer to any calls so guess everyone was out at work. We never did hear or work him for that all important OC-133 Multiplier, I wonder if anyone else did !!.

Saturday morning saw the arrival of Dave G3KLH, and Norman G3NVO, who caught the morning ferry.

More cow shooing, the duties shared out, dodging the cowpats in the process. A final check of the equipment, top up the generator, switch off, and relax for a couple of hours ready for the 1200GMT start time. Zero hour. We worked in pairs, one on the main transceivers, (TS850s) the other monitoring the multiplier spotting rig connected to a Butternut multiband vertical. Checking for these all important multipliers was done simply by dumping from the main computer to the spotting computer, we dumped every hour or so to refresh the spotter. G4TSH, & G3ZGC started the contest off on 20m SSB with a large pileup of EU and JA stations. Sporadic E high angle signals were evident with the GM's etc. booming in, at times 30 - 40db over.

I was particularly pleased that the JAs showed up as planned and added a fresh taste to the contest. We only worked one Oceania station, a VK7 on SSB at 3am long path no other VKs etc. were heard. We also didn't work as many NA stations this year, probably due to the Olympic Games in Atlanta !. But there was a significant number of NA multipliers on to make up for the deficit.

In hind sight, we most probably missed out on a large number of multipliers through our packet cluster crash.. We did try various paths of access but kept getting discon-

nected, probably due to overload !. It would have been nice to see how our final score would have looked if we had access. Their was no frills to our set-up. Basic tri-bander 20, 15, 10m, 400Watts output from the old FL2100 amp, computers with SDI software.

Sunday morning we had breakfast, camp style. Eggs, bacon. various varieties of sausages, mushrooms, tomato's that was great, all washed down with coffee and tea.

At 773ft asl, we had a commanding view of the island. You could see the tower and Antenna's for miles around. Apparently, word had got around from the locals, that we were actually up on the hill UFO hunting. Now there's a thought !. We got buzzed by a few low flying aircraft during the contest, apparently taking tourists on 20 minute flights around the island, obviously, we were a tourist attraction as the Islands UFO spotters !. Wonder if we made the local rag !. We each had a great time, after all, that's what it's all about enjoying oneself. The only fly in the ointment was a puncture on the tower trailer 3 miles from my home town of Thatcham, but I managed to crawl back before it finally went flat.

The final score looks like being about 2.1 million points. We worked about 1600 stations and 207 multipliers. This was a better result over what we attained on the Isles of Scilly last year, but still not quite as good as we had hoped for. I think we were the only group that operated from an English Coastal Island The contest scoring system seems to give little advantage in doing so as opposed to mainland G.

M6N QSO breakdown:

QSOs	80m	40m	20m	15m	10m	Total
SSB	102	141	542	93	72	950
CW	58	129	288	9	52	626
Mults						
SSB	32	23	49	19	13	136
CW	13	13	23	13	9	71

9H CONTEST STATION

Jeff Morris/9H1EL/9H0A.

Paul, 9H1BT and I have recently gained access to an 8-acre plot on a hilltop close to my QTH here in Malta. It was a site used by the British Army for communications to selected parts of the world. It consists of 13 masts what appears at first to be scattered around the site, until it was realised that they were positioned for rhombic antennas to be pointed in the desired directions.

The masts are all about 100ft high, are heavily engineered but are not rotatable. It would appear that the best ideas for antennas would be either:

1. Re-install the rhombics, so that all desired directions for contests can be covered.

2. Buy 6061 aluminium tubing from overseas and construct the farm using fixed yagis.

3. Build fixed delta loops in all suspended from rope or wire between masts.

Our intention is to construct a Multi-Multi or Multi-Single station for the big events. Our main problem is finance. While I can afford to finance the project myself, I wonder if this has been a problem that has been solved by the other big groups. We prefer that we do not involve the local clubs, as they are not particularly affluent.

However we would like to get overseas groups involved, but have little or no idea of fees to charge, if this is permissible (we have to rent the site from the Malta Government and get electricity re-installed).

Any advice or suggestions (constructive) would be greatly appreciated.

LOUDER.....

is GOODER!

That's it for this issue, my thanks go to RSGB & Radcom, DXNS, QST publications for without them much of this information would not be available.

If you are running a contest station that may require that extra operator then let me know; I can do no more. I hope you have a good and successful contesting period ahead, and I look forward to perhaps hearing from you.

Lastly, if you have anything of interest or information then do please phone me. My apologies for any inconvenience that may have been caused, I do try to keep all info as accurate as possible and up to date but errors do happen. If you spot something then let me know so I can correct the article. Your scribe here is grossly under paid, and even more over worked these days but he does do his best.

Thanks and 73s de Ken, G0ORH.

WHERE DID HE GO NEXT? (Or, wherefore art thou..?)

The following messages appeared recently on the Internet DX Reflector (identities of the parties have been omitted):

Hello DXers, has anyone received their QSL card from EM1KA? I sent it to 9H3UP on June'96 and no answer at the present time. The address I've got for 9H3UP is: Roy Rogers, P.O.Box 113 CMR, VALLETTA, MALTA.

This elicited the following response (among others):

Yes, I received an EM1KA card from "Mr Roy Rogers" at that address, but it took a little longer than two months, so be patient. Roman EM1KA is ex-4K2OT. If you think you've seen that call-sign somewhere before, you have - he was one of the participants in the XY0RR DXpedition. Mr "Roy Rogers", his QSL Manager, is another, even better-known, participant in that DXpedition. Let's just say that the handwritten RO in the "Roy" signature on my EM1KA card has remarkable similarity to the RO in the operator's signature on my YA0RR card!! When I handed my EM1KA card to Bill K5FUV for an 80M DXCC endorsement at HamCom near Dallas, he smiled as he checked it off. Thank you Bill!!

Son of a gun! Now we know! But say, wasn't Roy Rogers the biggest cowboy of them all?

FINAL FINAL

Grateful thanks to all who have contributed to this edition of Newsletter, and without whom you'd all be reading about 50 blank pages. It has been a great pleasure compiling this issue and I hope the input continues! Please forgive any typos, etc., it'll take a while to get settled into this seat. Hi! The winter LF season approaches so can we please have a few LF-related articles for publication in November? Whether you are LF-inclined, or terrified at the prospect of DXing at 3am, do please put pen to paper and share your views with other members. I have more spare time than Alan so the deadline dates maybe later. However, DON'T wait for the deadline - get your input in to me ASAP. Don't forget to tell CDXC Newsletter about your DXing goals, achievements.... and disappointments. See you in the pile-ups. Vy 73 de Bren, G4DYO

HEARING IS BELIEVING

As Reviewed in RadCom August 1996

Heil Proset-5 Professional Quality Boom Headset, dual padded earphones, flexible mic boom, includes HC-5 "Full range" insert for superb speech quality. Requires AD-1 cable ADAPTOR for YAESU/KENWOOD/ICOM. £119.95 incl. VAT

Heil Proset-4 Identical to Proset-5, but includes HC-4 "DX" microphone insert. Ideal for punching through the pileups. £119.95 incl. VAT

Heil HC-4 Replacement microphone insert for existing fist or base microphones. With 10DB peak at 2KHZ and the low end rolled off sharply at 500HZ, (12DB per octave), the HC-4 is the ultimate DX mic insert. £28.95 incl. VAT

Heil HC-5 Identical to HC-4, but High Articulation, offering superb SSB quality, rolls off sharply under 350HZ and above 3100HZ, peaking at 2.4KHZ. "Hi-Fi" SSB Audio. £28.95 incl. VAT

Heil AD-I/K/Y Adapter leads to interface the proset Headset/boom microphones to 8 pin Yaesu, Icom or Kenwood transceivers. £11.95 EACH

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